

RULES AND  
REGULATIONS  
OF THE  
BOY SCOUTS  
OF AMERICA



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

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# ARTICLE VI. LOCAL COUNCILS

## COUNCIL ORGANIZATION

### SECTION 1.

#### Members

*Clause 1.* Active. The active membership of all local councils shall consist of persons 21 years of age or over, duly registered as provided in these Rules and Regulations. The membership shall include representatives from organizations or groups of citizens operating units as provided in the Rules and Regulations, classified as chartered organization representatives, together with representatives at large of the various business, civic, educational, labor, social, and religious interests of the communities, classified as council members at large.

*Clause 2.* Associate. Persons desiring to maintain an actual Scouter membership without assignment to active service may be elected as associate members of local councils, without vote, provided that they qualify by the same procedure and under the same conditions as active Scouters. They may wear the uniform and shall be enrolled as subscribers to *Scouting* magazine.

## DISTRICT ORGANIZATION

### SECTION 2.

#### Districts

*Clause 1.* For the purpose of unit service and program administration, a local council may be divided geographically or functionally into such districts as the local council executive board may determine. The Executive Board of the Corporation may from time to time adopt rules and regulations concerning district organization.

#### District Committee/District Commissioner Staff

*Clause 2.* The administration of Scouting in each district shall be exercised by the local council through a district committee and a district commissioner staff.

#### Function of District

*Clause 3.* The district committee, the operating committees of the district, and the district commissioner staff have no legislative authority. Its purpose is to make effective in the territory policies and programs as adopted by the local council, its executive board, and council committees.

## LOCAL UNITS

### SECTION 3.

#### Organization of Units

*Clause 1.* General. The Corporation shall have the power to grant charters to organizations and groups of individuals meeting the requirements of the Bylaws and these Rules and Regulations to organize and maintain units of the Scouting program, and to issue certificates of membership in such units to the officers and members thereof who comply with the requirements of the Bylaws and these Rules and Regulations. The Corporation shall have the power

to revoke such charters when in its sole judgment such revocation is warranted.

#### Charters to Organizations

*Clause 2.* For the formation of units, charters may be granted to organizations upon application from the duly constituted authorities of such organizations on forms provided for that purpose. Such applications shall obligate the organizations to provide adequate facilities, supervision, and leadership for at least 1 year and to make an effort to provide youth members with the opportunity for a quality program experience as set forth in the official literature of the Boy Scouts of America.

#### Charters for Community Units

*Clause 3.* While the formation of units in connection with existing organizations shall be preferred, when conditions warrant a charter may be granted for the formation of a unit independent of any relationship with an existing organization, provided, however, that the applicants are citizens of the United States, who subscribe to the principles of the Scout Oath and Law, and whose interest is primarily in helping boys and young adults through the Scouting program, and who shall have the resources to provide the necessary leadership, supervision, and facilities. In such cases the obligations upon the applicants for a charter shall be the same as those required for organizations.

#### Standards of Organizations

*Clause 4.* Intended meeting quarters shall be periodically inspected to determine their adequacy as well as to ascertain other uses to be made of these or adjoining quarters, for the purpose of considering the compatibility of uses and the general appropriateness of the environment. An investigation shall also be made as to the general objectives, purpose, character, intent, and programs of the prospective chartered organization or community group and its compatibility with the aims and purposes of the Boy Scouts of America. The history, length of service, and general reputation of the organization or community group are also factors that should be considered.

#### Renewals

*Clause 5.* Unit charters may be renewed upon application, provided a review of past activities, personnel, and plans for the future shows a satisfactory effort to carry out the Scouting program, as set forth in the official literature, and to comply with the Rules and Regulations of the Boy Scouts of America.

#### Local Council Approval

*Clause 6.* In territory supervised by a local council, all applications for unit charters, new and renewal, may be granted only upon the favorable recommendation of the local council.

#### Chartered Organization Representative

*Clause 7.* In territory supervised by local councils, each chartered organization shall appoint a volunteer, other than the unit leader or assistant unit leader, as its chartered organization representative to represent it as a member of the district committee and as a voting member of the local council.

**Unit Committees**

*Clause 8.* Each chartered unit of the Boy Scouts of America shall be under the supervision of a unit committee, consisting of three or more qualified adults, 21 years of age or older, selected by the organization with which the unit is connected, or in the case of a community unit of those who make application for the unit charter, one of whom shall be designated as chairman.

The unit committee shall have such responsibilities as may from time to time be defined by the Corporation.

**Leadership**

*Clause 9.* Each chartered Cub Scout pack, Boy Scout troop, Varsity Scout team, and Venturing crew shall have one individual, 21 years of age or older, who shall be registered and serve as the unit leader. In addition each Cub Scout pack shall have a minimum of one individual, 21 years of age or older, who shall be registered as a den leader. Unit and den leaders may not serve simultaneously in any other position within the same unit. The head of the chartered organization or chartered organization representative and the local council must approve the registration of the unit leader on the appropriate form.

**Packs**

*Clause 10.*

- (a) Packs, consisting of no fewer than five Cub Scouts, may be organized in the territory and under the supervision of local councils.
- (b) Each Cub Scout pack shall have at least one individual, 21 years of age or older, who shall be registered and serve as a den leader.
- (c) The provisions of these Rules and Regulations relating to the organization of units shall apply to the organization of packs.
- (d) The active adult leadership of the pack shall be designated collectively as Cub Scouters, and individually as pack committee members, Cubmaster, assistant Cubmasters, den leaders, assistant den leaders, Webelos den leaders, assistant Webelos den leaders, Tiger den leaders, and pack trainer. (Amended October 20, 2013)

They shall be appointed and commissioned as outlined in the Bylaws and these Rules and Regulations. These Cub Scouters shall be required to meet the same membership requirements and leadership responsibilities and shall have the same privileges and opportunities as provided for all unit Scouters.

(e) The Cub Scout membership of a pack shall be organized on the den system.

**Troops**

*Clause 11.*

- (a) Troops, consisting of no fewer than five Boy Scouts, may be organized in the territory and under the supervision of local councils.
- (b) The provisions of these Rules and Regulations, relating to the organization of units, shall apply to the organization of troops.
- (c) The active adult leadership of a troop shall be designated collectively as Scouters and individually as troop committee members, Scoutmaster, and assistant Scoutmasters. They shall be appointed and commissioned as outlined in the Bylaws and these Rules and Regulations. These Scouters shall be required to meet the same membership requirements and leadership responsibilities and shall have the same privileges and opportunities as provided for all unit Scouters.
- (d) The membership of a troop shall be organized on the patrol system.

**Teams**

*Clause 12.*

- (a) Teams, consisting of no fewer than five Varsity Scouts, may be organized in the territory and under the supervision of local councils.
- (b) The provisions of these Rules and Regulations, relating to the organization of units, shall apply to the organization of teams.
- (c) The active adult leadership of a team shall be designated collectively as Varsity Scouters and individually as team committee members, Coach, and assistant Coach. They shall be appointed and commissioned as outlined in the Bylaws and these Rules and Regulations. These Varsity Scouters shall be required to meet the same membership requirements and leadership responsibilities and shall have the same privileges and opportunities as provided for all unit Scouters.
- (d) The Varsity Scout membership of a team shall be organized on the squad method.

**Crews**

*Clause 13.*

- (a) Venturing crews and Sea Scout ships, which shall consist of no fewer than five members, may be organized in the territory and under the supervision of local councils.
- (b) The provisions of these Rules and Regulations, relating to the organization of units, shall apply to the organization of Venturing crews and Sea Scout ships.
- (c) The active adult leadership of a Venturing crew/Sea Scout ship shall be designated collectively as Venturing leaders/Sea Scout leaders and individually according to the designated titles of their respective type of Venturing unit/Sea Scout ship. They shall be appointed and commissioned as outlined in the Bylaws and these Rules and Regulations, and shall meet the same membership requirements and leadership responsibilities and shall have the same privileges and opportunities as provided for all unit Scouters.

**Unit Designation**

*Clause 14.*

- (a) All units shall be designated by the name of the community in which the unit is located.
- (b) Each unit shall be designated also by a serial number assigned by the local council or, if not under local council, by the Corporation.
- (c) There shall be only one series of numbers for units by which the unit shall be identified at the national office. A program code should be included with each national unit number. This shall not prevent the use of a local community number where units having previously been assigned local numbers desire to continue the use of such numbers locally, and, when requested, such numbers shall be used upon the unit charter and certificates.

**POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES****SECTION 4.**

*Clause 1.* It shall be the duty of the chartered councils to promote the Scouting program through the organization and registration

annually of units and their personnel; also to approve and provide leadership and supervision of all program activities, within the territory covered by their charters, in such a manner as to ensure compliance with the provisions of the Bylaws of the Boy Scouts of America and the Rules and Regulations thereof, as set forth in the official handbooks, or as may be announced.

*Clause 2.* Local councils shall be specifically charged with the responsibility to guard against the use of the official insignia and uniform by persons not officially registered with the Corporation and to bring to the attention of the Corporation any violation of regulations not within their power to prevent or any attempt to commercialize the Scouting movement.

*Clause 3.* Local councils shall, through their Scout executives or other representatives, make the benefits of the Scouting program known to all agencies or organizations having contact with boy and young-adult life and cooperate in the organization of units so that boys and young adults may have the benefit of the Scouting program.

*Clause 4.* Local councils shall provide means for assisting chartered organizations in securing and training individuals to serve as unit leaders and assistants. The chartered organization shall provide leadership and facilities in order that youth members

under their jurisdiction may have the opportunity to participate in a quality program experience as set forth in the official literature of the Boy Scouts of America.

*Clause 5.* Local councils shall endeavor to provide facilities and leadership in order that Venturers/Sea Scouts under their jurisdiction may have the opportunity to participate in a Venturing/Sea Scout superactivity away from home each year.

*Clause 6.* Local councils shall provide procedures for advancement in order that youth members may meet the various requirements of rank in adherence to the advancement requirements set forth in the official literature of Boy Scouts of America.

**AUTHORITY FOR SCOUT EXECUTIVE'S MANUAL**

**SECTION 5.**

The authorization for policies and procedures discussed in the *Scout Executive's Manual* comes from the Rules and Regulations, which in turn comes from the Charter and Bylaws of the Boy Scouts of America.

**ARTICLE VII. YOUTH MEMBERS**

**GENERAL CLASSIFICATIONS**

**SECTION 1.**

**Active**

*Clause 1.* An active youth member is one who, with the approval of a parent or guardian if necessary, becomes a member of a unit; obligates himself or herself to attend the meetings regularly; fulfills a member's obligation to the unit; subscribes to the Scout Oath or the code of his or her respective program; and participates in an appropriate program based on a member's age, as promulgated from time to time by the Boy Scouts of America.

**Associate**

*Clause 2.* Any youth member who, in the judgment of the unit leader and the unit committee, is unable to meet the requirements of active membership may be carried on the unit records as an associate, provided the individual attends at least one meeting of the unit within the year and in all other respects is guided by the obligations of an active member.

**Visiting Youth Members**

*Clause 3.* Enrollment. Young people of other nationalities who are temporarily resident in the United States may be enrolled as "visiting" youth members, at the national office of the Corporation upon local council recommendation.

*Clause 4.* Affiliation. Such enrollment shall entitle the youth members to affiliate with a local unit where the individual temporarily resides and to share all activities, privileges, advancement recognition, and service credits to which registered members of the Boy Scouts of America are entitled. This shall include the right to wear, while thus affiliated, the prescribed insignia and uniform of the Boy Scouts of America for which the member may qualify.

*Clause 5.* Certificates of Service. Upon leaving the United States, certificates shall be given such affiliated "visiting" youth members attesting their service record and advancement while in the United States.

**PROGRAM GROUPS**

**SECTION 2.**

**Tigers, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts**

*Clause 1.* Youth members in the following programs shall be boys who meet specific requirements as established by the Boy Scouts of America and published from time to time in the official publications of the organization. Specific membership requirements are:

- (a) Tiger—Must be under the age of 8 who
  - (1) has completed kindergarten or is in first grade
  - or
  - (2) is age 7.
- (b) Cub Scout—Must
  - (1) have completed first grade, but not have completed third grade,
  - or
  - (2) be age 8 or 9.
- (c) Webelos Scout—Must
  - (1) have completed third grade, but has not completed fifth grade,
  - or
  - (2) be age 10, but not yet 11½.
- (d) Boy Scout—Must be under the age of 18 and
  - (1) have completed fifth grade and be at least 10 years old,
  - or
  - (2) have earned the Arrow of Light Award and be at least 10 years old,
  - or
  - (3) be age 11 or older.
- (e) Varsity Scout—Must be at least age 14 and not yet age 18.  
(Amended October 20, 2013)

**Venturers**

*Clause 2.* Members in Venturing shall be male or female and meet specific requirements as established by the Boy Scouts of

America and published from time to time in the official publications of the organization.

(a) Venturer—Be 13 years of age and have completed the eighth grade, or be 14 years of age or older, and not yet 21 years of age.

(b) Sea Scouts, BSA—A special-interest program carried on as a part of Venturing.

**Lone Cub Scout and Lone Boy Scout**

*Clause 3.* A Lone Cub Scout or Lone Boy Scout is a boy who meets the same requirements of grade or age as established in clause 1, becomes registered, and meets the program objectives with the help of a Lone Scout friend and counselor. The program shall be carried out under supervision of the local council in which he lives.

**YOUTH LEADERSHIP POSITIONS**

**SECTION 3.**

Each Scouting unit may have certain key youth leadership positions which shall involve youth members in leadership and program management. Positions are:

(a) Junior Assistant Scoutmaster—A 16- to 17-year-old youth appointed by the Scoutmaster, approved by the troop committee, and responsible to the Scoutmaster for tasks assigned.

(b) Senior Patrol Leader—Shall be elected by the majority of youth members registered in the troop. He shall meet the qualifications set by the patrol leaders’ council. He may appoint other youth leaders with the concurrence of the Scoutmaster and shall preside over the patrol leaders’ council.

(c) Varsity Team Captain—Shall be nominated by the team committee with the concurrence of the Coach. The Varsity Scouts comprising the team vote to elect, or accept, the captain. He runs the team and appoints cocaptains, program managers, and squad leaders with the concurrence of the Coach and youth members.

(d) Venturer Elected Officers—Elected Venturing officers work together to help the crew succeed. Elected officer positions are: president, first vice-president, second vice-president, secretary, and treasurer.

**ARTICLE VIII. ADULT LEADERSHIP**

**GENERAL**

**SECTION 1.**

**Designation**

*Clause 1.* Scouters. The collective designation for all registered adult members of the Boy Scouts of America.

*Clause 2.* Unit Scouters. All adult members registered with the unit, except the chartered organization representative who shall be considered a council Scouter.

*Clause 3.* District Scouters. All adult members serving on the district committee and district commissioner’s staff.

*Clause 4.* Council Scouters. All adult members registered with the council.

**Approval**

*Clause 5.* All recommendations for commissions or certificates of membership for unit, district, and council Scouters under council supervision are subject to the approval of the local council. Said recommendations for unit Scouters must be approved by the head of the chartered organization or by the chartered organization representative. (Amended October 17, 2012)

*Clause 6.* All recommendations from local units of the Direct Service Council for commissions or certificates of membership are subject to the approval of the Corporation.

**NONCITIZENS**

**SECTION 2.**

**Registration of Noncitizens**

*Clause 1.* Adults who are not citizens of the United States but who reside within the country may register with the Boy Scouts of America in any capacity if they agree to abide by the Scout Oath

and Scout Law, to respect and obey the laws of the United States of America, and to subscribe to the statement of religious principle.

**Service Outside the United States**

*Clause 2.* At the discretion of the Executive Board of the Boy Scouts of America, and under such rules and regulations as it may prescribe, commissions or certificates of membership as Scouters may be issued to citizens serving in a country or territory under the control of the United States.

**COMMISSIONED LEADERSHIP**

**SECTION 3.**

**Issuance of Commissions**

*Clause 1.* All individuals in unit leadership positions (including Lone Cub Scout and Boy Scout friends and counselors) shall be issued commissions by the Boy Scouts of America.

*Clause 2.* All individuals selected to serve as commissioners (including Venturing service team members) shall be recommended by the Scout executive and approved by the council executive board (with the exception of the council commissioner, who is an elected officer). They shall be issued commissions by the Boy Scouts of America on an annual basis.

**Age Requirements**

*Clause 3.* Commissioned officials must be at least 21 years of age, with the exception of those individuals at least 18 years of age who may be commissioned as assistant unit leaders. (Associate Venturing Advisors must be 21 years of age.)

**Commissioners**

*Clause 4. Council Commissioner.* The council commissioner shall direct the extent and quality of commissioner service through monthly meetings with district commissioners and commissioner conferences. The council commissioner has the responsibility at the council level to report to the council president and regularly interpret the commissioner function to the council executive board. The council commissioner is responsible for the local council's commitment to on-time reregistration of units. The council commissioner shall serve as an officer of the council and as a National Council representative.

*Clause 5. Assistant Council Commissioners.* Each local council may have one or more assistant council commissioners. These individuals are appointed by the council commissioner and assist, on direction, in the performance of the duties of that office.

*Clause 6. District Commissioner.* A district commissioner is offered for approval and appointment by the district nominating committee. The district commissioner shall, through a volunteer staff, be responsible for on-time charter renewals, unit service and monthly roundtables in the district and give leadership to recruiting, training, and supervision of an effective staff. The district commissioner serves on the council commissioner's staff, reports to the district chairman, and has an advisory relationship with the district operating committees.

*Clause 7. Assistant District Commissioners.* Each district may have one or more assistant district commissioners. These individuals are appointed by the district commissioner and shall, under direction, recruit, train, and supervise unit commissioners or assist in staff operation through functional assignments.

*Clause 8. Unit commissioners* shall be appointed by the district commissioner to be responsible for the continuity and program capability of assigned units. Unit commissioners provide their assigned units with meaningful service that brings about on-time charter renewal, membership growth, and the delivery of Scouting ideals to youth members. They give guidance in unit operation to unit leaders and interpret council and district activities in terms of unit opportunities.

*Clause 9. Roundtable Commissioners.*

(a) A Cub Scout roundtable commissioner is appointed by the district commissioner to be responsible for monthly Cub Scout leader roundtables that provide unit program ideas and inspiration to reinforce leaders' commitment to help boys grow. The Cub Scout roundtable commissioner shall recruit, train, and supervise a permanent Cub Scout roundtable staff.

(b) A Boy Scout roundtable commissioner is appointed by the district commissioner to be responsible for monthly Boy Scout leader roundtables that provide unit program ideas and inspiration to reinforce leader's commitment to help boys grow. The Boy Scout roundtable commissioner shall recruit, train, and supervise a permanent Boy Scout roundtable staff.

(c) A Varsity Scout huddle commissioner is to be appointed by the district commissioner to be responsible for Varsity Scout leader huddles that provide team program ideas and inspiration to reinforce leader's commitment to help boys grow. The Varsity Scout

huddle commissioner shall recruit, train, and supervise a permanent Varsity Scout huddle staff.

*Clause 10. Roundtable/Huddle Staff.*

(a) Cub Scout roundtable staff members shall be appointed by the Cub Scout roundtable commissioner and, under direction, plan and conduct monthly Cub Scout leader roundtables.

(b) Boy Scout roundtable staff members shall be appointed by the Boy Scout roundtable commissioner and, under direction, plan and conduct monthly Boy Scout leader roundtables.

(c) Varsity Scout huddle staff members shall be appointed by the Varsity Scout huddle commissioner and, under direction, plan and conduct Varsity Scout leader huddles.

**Unit Leadership**

*Clause 11. Unit Leadership.* All recommendations for commissions to serve as unit leader, assistant unit leader, Tiger den leader, assistant Tiger den leader, den leader, assistant den leader, Webelos den leader, or assistant Webelos den leader shall originate with the unit committee, the chartered organization, or the community unit committee. The head of the chartered organization or the chartered organization representative must approve the registration of the leader in the appropriate form. The local council must also approve the registration. (Amended October 20, 2013)

Adult leadership positions shall be filled by persons 21 years of age or older, except the following, which may be filled by persons 18 years of age or older: assistant Cubmaster, assistant Scoutmaster, assistant Varsity team Coach, assistant den leader, and assistant Webelos den leader.

**PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP**

**SECTION 4.**

**General**

*Clause 1.* Persons who have met the qualifications and requirements established for professional service in the Boy Scouts of America shall be commissioned as professional Scouters.

**Requirements**

*Clause 2.* The Human Resources Administration/Professional Development Committee shall be responsible for the development of such criteria, policies, and procedures as will assure the recruitment of professional candidates with necessary physical, educational, personal, and moral qualifications. These criteria, policies, and procedures will be reviewed annually. They shall include at least the following:

(a) The recruit must have attained age 21 unless prohibited by any applicable law.

(b) The recruit must have earned a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university. Consideration will be given a person with an associate of arts degree with satisfactory evidence of a successful career experience of at least 10 consecutive years in general business, industry, government, or the military, along with at least 5 years of leadership experience as an adult Scouting volunteer. An approved paraprofessional employee with 2 consecutive

years of successful employment and an associate of arts degree may also be considered.

(c) The recruit must accept the declaration of religious principle and the Scout Oath and Law.

(d) The recruit must be, or declare an intention to become, a citizen of the United States of America before being commissioned as a professional Scouter.

### Commissioning

*Clause 3.* The following procedure provides the basis for the commissioning of persons as professional Scouters:

#### PHASE I

A person employed as a pre-commissioned professional shall demonstrate to the satisfaction of the local council Scout executive (or, in the case of being employed by the Corporation, the Chief Scout Executive) an acceptable willingness to work and a degree of cooperation, a motivation toward career service in the movement, and has demonstrated an apparent ability to succeed as a professional Scouter. In addition, Phase I pre-course work assigned must be completed prior to attending Phase II position-basic training. In the event he or she does not meet all of these requirements, employment shall be terminated by the local council Scout executive (or, as applicable, the Chief Scout Executive).

#### PHASE II

The pre-commissioned professional who successfully completes Phase I of the commissioning process shall attend the required position-basic training not longer than five months following employment.

The pre-commissioned professional must satisfactorily accomplish those designated assignments in position-basic training; satisfactorily demonstrate the development of necessary techniques; and demonstrate moral and personal fitness as set forth in the Scout Oath and Scout Law and in the Scout Executive's Code. The BSA training and development director or designee shall decide whether the pre-commissioned professional has satisfactorily completed position-basic training. Those pre-commissioned professionals who successfully complete position-basic training shall receive a certificate to that effect and will be commissioned by the Chief Scout Executive, or designee, as a professional Scouter and shall receive documentary evidence of such commission and shall thereupon be entered into the official roll of professional Scouters of the Boy Scouts of America.

### Decommissioning

*Clause 4.* A professional Scouter may be decommissioned when, in the judgment of the Corporation, that person demonstrates that he or she does not possess the moral, educational, or emotional qualities deemed necessary for commissioned professional status or lacks such other commissioned professional qualifications or fails to obey such requirements as the Corporation from time to time may require. A decommissioned professional Scouter shall be ineligible for re-employment by the Corporation or any local council in any capacity.

(Amended October 20, 2013)

## EMPLOYMENT OF PROFESSIONALS

### SECTION 5.

#### Rules and Guidelines

*Clause 1.* The Chief Scout Executive, subject to the direction of the Executive Board, the Bylaws, and these Rules and Regulations, shall establish procedures covering employment, training, promotion, tenure, demotion, and retirement or discharge of all professional and professional-technical employees of the Corporation and of local councils; as well as determine the positions that may be held only by commissioned professional Scouters.

#### Special Situations

*Clause 2.* It is recognized that for the efficient operation of the Corporation certain professional and professional-technical staff positions may be held by people selected because of their specialized qualifications. The Chief Scout Executive may, in exceptional instances, waive the education or equivalency requirement of section 4, clause 2, above and grant to such persons professional or professional-technical status during their term of employment which shall be limited to such professional or professional-technical staff positions.

#### National Professional Staff

*Clause 3.* The Chief Scout Executive, subject to the approval of the Executive Board, shall determine the necessary national organization structure and professional staff requirements.

#### Local Council Professional Personnel

*Clause 4.* A local council may employ as its Scout executive—that is, its executive officer having general direction of its administration and supervision over Scouting activities within its jurisdiction—a person selected by it from the list of candidates of commissioned professional Scouters submitted by the national office who shall serve so long as commissioned as provided herein and during the pleasure of the local council's executive board subject to the policies and procedures of the National Council.

In no event shall a local council select as its Scout executive a professional employee currently serving in any other capacity in that council, nor shall any such person be included in any list provided for in the preceding paragraph.

#### Other Local Council Staff

*Clause 5.* A local council may employ in other professional positions persons selected from lists of candidates consisting of commissioned professional Scouters submitted by the national office. Such persons shall serve in the local council so long as commissioned as provided herein and during the pleasure of the local council's Scout executive. The duties of such professional personnel shall be defined by the local council Scout executive with the approval of the local council executive board. The classification and title of such position shall be determined by the Chief Scout Executive.

*Clause 6.* Pre-Commissioned Professional. Newly employed persons not yet commissioned as professional Scouters employed as described in article VIII, section 4, clause 3, in these Rules and Regulations and with the approval of the national office. The employment period shall not extend for more than 5 months prior to attending position-basic training.

**RULES AND REGULATIONS—ARTICLE VIII, SECTION 6**

*Clause 7.* The following local council positions may be filled by a commissioned professional only:

Unit-serving position; any year-round program position; any position supervising other professionals; and Scout executive.

A professional trainee may serve as a unit-serving executive.

(Amended October 20, 2013)

**BSA EMPLOYEES**

SECTION 6.

**Retirement**

Contributions and benefits under the Basic Retirement Plan of the Boy Scouts of America are based upon normal retirement of employees at age 65. Subject to satisfactory performance, continued employment by an employee is subject to applicable state and federal law.

# ARTICLE IX. PRINCIPLES, POLICIES, AND DEFINITIONS

(See article IX of Bylaws for Declaration of Religious Principle.)

## PRINCIPLES—MOTTO, SLOGAN, OATH OR PROMISE, AND LAW

### SECTION 1.

#### Motto

*Clause 1.* The motto of the Boy Scouts of America is: “Be Prepared.”

#### Slogan

*Clause 2.* The slogan of the Boy Scouts of America is “Do a Good Turn Daily.”

#### The Scout Oath or Promise and the Scout Law

*Clause 3.* All Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Varsity Scouts, Venturers, and Sea Scouts must know and subscribe to the Scout Oath or Promise and Law, as follows:

##### *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. A Scout tells the truth. He keeps his promises. Honesty is part of his code of conduct. People can depend on him.

Loyal. A Scout is true to his family, Scout leaders, friends, school, and nation.

Helpful. A Scout is concerned about other people. He does things willingly for others without pay or reward.

Friendly. A Scout is a friend to all. He is a brother to other Scouts. He seeks to understand others. He respects those with ideas and customs other than his own.

Courteous. A Scout is polite to everyone regardless of age or position. He knows good manners make it easier for people to get along together.

Kind. A Scout understands there is strength in being gentle. He treats others as he wants to be treated. He does not hurt or kill harmless things without reason.

Obedient. A Scout follows the rules of his family, school, and troop. He obeys the laws of his community and country. If he thinks these rules and laws are unfair, he tries to have them changed in an orderly manner rather than disobey them.

Cheerful. A Scout looks for the bright side of things. He cheerfully does tasks that come his way. He tries to make others happy.

Thrifty. A Scout works to pay his way and to help others. He saves for unforeseen needs. He protects and conserves natural resources. He carefully uses time and property.

Brave. A Scout can face danger even if he is afraid. He has the courage to stand for what he thinks is right even if others laugh at or threaten him.

Clean. A Scout keeps his body and mind fit and clean. He goes around with those who believe in living by these same ideals. He helps keep his home and community clean.

Reverent. A Scout is reverent toward God. He is faithful in his religious duties. He respects the beliefs of others.

(Amended October 17, 2012; effective with release of handbooks and leader aids to support in 2014-15)

## POLICIES

### SECTION 2.

#### Cooperation With National Movements

*Clause 1.* With the consent of the local council, members of the Boy Scouts of America may cooperate with established nonpartisan and nonsectarian national movements for the relief of humanity in undertakings to raise money by giving personal service, provided, however, that this shall not involve the use of BSA youth members as collectors or solicitors of money.

#### Participation in Public Functions

*Clause 2.* The officers and leaders of the Boy Scouts of America shall, when practicable, cooperate in connection with civic or other public gatherings of a nonpartisan and nonpolitical character in a way which gives youth members an opportunity to render service in harmony with their training instead of merely taking part in parades or making a show of themselves in their uniforms.

#### Unit Money-Earning Projects

*Clause 3.* Units may conduct money-earning projects only when the projects have been approved by the chartered organization and the local council and are consistent with the principles set forth in these Rules and Regulations.

#### Scouting Public Display Activities

*Clause 4.* Local councils may approve the sale of tickets for the public display of Scouting activities, such as merit badge shows, circuses, rallies, and demonstrations, when (a) the nature of the program or function offers a value commensurate with the purchasing price of tickets offered for sale, (b) the sale of tickets is not used as an indirect method of defeating the purpose of article IX, section 2, clause 7 of these Rules and Regulations, and (c) the participation of youth members in the sale of tickets for such affairs is confined to their parents and friends and does not involve methods similar to those used in the sale of tags or other general solicitation.

**Advertising Policy**

*Clause 5.* Advertisements.

(a) Advertisements for placement in Scouting publications and other media, in addition to meeting the standards in general use by publishers of high-grade periodicals and other advertising media, must:

- (1) Relate to a service or product which could reasonably be foreseen to render some service to the audience of the advertisement, or relate in some way to the purposes of the Boy Scouts of America, and
- (2) Merit the purchase price of the article or service offered in the advertisement.

(b) No advertisement will use or display any logo, insignia, terms in common usage, or descriptive marks relating to Scouting without conforming to all currently accepted procedures and guidelines as established by the National Council, Boy Scouts of America. (Amended October 12, 2011)

**Policy Concerning Political Questions**

*Clause 6.* The Boy Scouts of America shall not, through its governing body or through any of its officers, its chartered councils, or members, involve the Scouting movement in any question of a political character. However, this shall not be interpreted to prevent the teaching of ideals of patriotism and good citizenship as required to fulfill the Corporation's purpose. This policy shall also not limit the freedom of thought or action of any official or member as an individual, nor shall it prevent the organization from expressing its opinion upon matters of governmental concern when considered in its best interest by the governing body of the Boy Scouts of America.

**Commercialism Policy**

*Clause 7.* Commercial Contracts.

(a) No member of the Boy Scouts of America, chartered unit, chartered local council, or any officer or representative of the Boy Scouts of America shall have the right to enter into a contract or relationship of a commercial character directly involving or obligating the National Council, Boy Scouts of America, or that uses the seal, emblems, badges, descriptive marks, words, or phrases associated with or referring to the Boy Scouts of America unless duly authorized by the national Executive Board.

(b) (1.) A local council may not grant permission, whether verbally or in writing, to any third party for the use of any logo, insignia, terms in common usage, or descriptive marks relating to Scouting unless that third party is authorized in writing by the National Council to use the designating mark by the local council. Any use of a Boy Scouts of America designating mark by a local council must avoid appearing to be an endorsement of any commercial product or venture except for corporate sponsorships entered into by the National Council, Boy Scouts of America.

(2.) No member of the Boy Scouts of America, chartered unit, or chartered organization shall have the right to use any logo, insignia, terms in common usage, or descriptive marks relating to Scouting for any commercial purpose, without the express written authorization of the National Council to use the designating marks in the manner requested.

(c) Subject to these Rules and Regulations and Bylaws of the Boy Scouts of America, chartered organizations, unit leaders, or youth members shall not be restricted from earning money to participate in Scouting, provided that all approved procedures for doing so are followed, including prior approval by the governing local council.

(Amended October 12, 2011)

**Policy Concerning Military Training**

*Clause 8.* In carrying out the purpose of the Scouting movement as stated herein, technical military training and drill shall not be included.

**Conflict-of-Interest Policy**

*Clause 9.* A fundamental principle of ethics is that any person who exercises discretionary authority on behalf of the Corporation may not use this authority for his or her own benefit.

It is therefore the basic policy of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) that all Executive Board members or members of any committee thereof or officers or employees of BSA have a duty to be free from the influence of any conflicting interest when they act on behalf of BSA or represent it in negotiations or advise others in BSA with respect to dealing with third parties. They are expected to deal with suppliers, customers, contractors, and others having dealings with BSA on the sole basis of that which is in the best interest of BSA, without favor or preference to third parties based on personal considerations. To this end, the following shall be the policy of the Boy Scouts of America:

(a) No member of the Executive Board or member of any committee thereof or officer or employee of BSA shall accept from any person, directly or indirectly, whether by himself or herself or through his or her spouse or a member of his or her family or through any partner or business or professional associate, any gift, favor, service, employment or offer of employment or any other thing of value which he or she knows or has reason to believe is made or offered to him or her with the intent to influence him or her in the performance of his or her duties as a member of the Executive Board or member of any committee thereof or officer or employee of BSA.

(b) No member of the Executive Board or member of any committee thereof or officer or employee of BSA who is a partner, officer, or employee of a partnership, firm, or corporation or who owns or controls, directly or indirectly, more than 10 percent of the stock of such corporation, shall represent, appear for, or negotiate on behalf of BSA in connection with the acquisition or sale by BSA of any interest in real or tangible or intangible personal property from or to such partnership, firm, or corporation or any purchase of services from or to such partnership, firm, or corporation.

(c) No member of the Executive Board or member of any committee thereof shall participate by discussion, voting, or by any other action taken by the Executive Board, or any committee thereof, in the enactment of or defeat of a motion in which that member has an interest as defined in paragraph (b) above. In case any such matter is discussed at any meeting where any Executive Board or committee member who has such an interest is present, the member shall promptly disclose that interest in the matter to be voted on to the chairman of the meeting. The member shall not vote on the matter and at the discretion of the disinterested members present may be required to leave the meeting during the discussion and the voting on the matter.

(d) BSA shall not enter into any transaction with any individual or entity that is a “disqualified person” with respect to BSA under Section 4958 of the Internal Revenue Code, if such transaction would constitute an “excess benefits transaction” under that same section.

## DEFINITIONS

### SECTION 3.

#### Adult

*Clause 1.* Unless otherwise stated, the word “adult” refers to a person 18 years of age or older.

# ARTICLE X. PROGRAM

## ADVANCEMENT

### SECTION 1.

#### General Principles

*Clause 1.* Education is the chief function of the Scouting movement and it shall be the basis of the advancement program. A fundamental principle of advancement shall be that the boy’s progress is a natural outcome of his activities in his unit. The rank requirements in these phases of the Scouting program, as set forth in the official publications, shall furnish the basis of the activities of the unit.

(a) In Cub Scouting, recognition is earned in the home and the neighborhood by passing certain achievements related to simple skills, habits, ideals, and hobbies.

(b) In Boy Scouting, recognition is gained through leadership in the troop, attending and participating in its activities, living the ideals of Scouting, and proficiency in activities related to outdoor life, useful skills, and career exploration.

(c) In Varsity Scouting, recognition is gained through leadership in the team, attending and participating in its activities, living the ideals of Varsity Scouting, and proficiency in activities related to outdoor life, useful skills, and career exploration.

(d) In Venturing, recognition takes on a wider scope, involving the assumption of adultlike roles, identification with adult careers, and participation in community and citizenship responsibilities.

#### Administration

*Clause 2.* All advancement procedures shall be administered under conditions which harmonize with the aims and purposes of the Boy Scouts of America.

#### Cub Scout Advancement

*Clause 3.* Basis for Advancement. The Cub Scout advancement program shall be the basis for the Cub Scout’s advancement. There shall be three steps in Tiger, Cub Scout, and Webelos Scout advancement procedures: preparation, qualification, and recognition.

#### National Office

*Clause 2.* The term “national office” may be used to refer to the Chief Scout Executive or other members of the national staff at the Corporation’s headquarters at Irving, Texas. Where a responsibility is assigned to the national office it will be handled by the Chief Scout Executive or a member of the staff.

*Clause 4.* Ranks. There shall be the following ranks in Cub Scouting: Bobcat, Tiger, Wolf, Bear, Webelos, and Arrow of Light. The requirements shall be as authorized by the Executive Board and set forth in Cub Scout publications. (Amended October 20, 2013)

#### Boy Scout Advancement

*Clause 5.* Basis for Advancement. The Boy Scout requirements for ranks shall be the basis for the Scout’s advancement. There shall be four steps in Boy Scout advancement procedure: learning, testing, reviewing, and recognition.

*Clause 6.* Ranks. There shall be the following ranks in Boy Scouting: Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life, and Eagle. The requirements shall be those authorized by the Executive Board and set forth in the official Scouting publications. Eagle palms may also be awarded on the basis of requirements authorized by the Executive Board and set forth in the official Scouting publications. (Amended October 20, 2013)

*Clause 7.* Responsibility of Troop Committee. It shall be the responsibility of the troop committee, under the leadership and guidance of the local council, to make sure that the program of the troop is conducted in such a way that Scouts have an opportunity to advance on the basis of the four steps outlined in clause 5.

#### Varsity Scout Advancement

*Clause 8.* Basis for Advancement. The Boy Scout requirements for advancement shall be the basis for the Varsity Scout advancement.

*Clause 9.* Responsibility of the Team Committee. It shall be the responsibility of the team committee, under the leadership and guidance of the local council, to make sure that the program of the team is conducted in such a way that Varsity Scouts have an opportunity to advance on the basis of the four steps outlined in clause 5.

#### Venturing Recognition

*Clause 10.* Basis of Advancement.

(a) The Venturing advancement program shall be the basis for the Venturer’s advancement. There shall be four steps in Venturing advancement procedures: preparation, learning, qualification, and recognition.

**RULES AND REGULATIONS—ARTICLE X, SECTION 2**

(b) A male Venturer who has achieved the First Class rank as a Boy Scout in a troop or as a Varsity Scout in a team may continue working toward the Eagle Award while a Venturer until his 18th birthday. There is no Venturing advancement route to qualify for the Eagle Award.

*Clause 11. Ranks.*

(a) There shall be awards and ranks in Sea Scouts, BSA, the requirements for which shall be approved by the Executive Board as proposed by the Venturing Committee and set forth in Sea Scouting and Venturing publications.

(b) With the exception of Sea Scouts, BSA, there are no ranks in the Venturing program.

*Clause 12. Examination in Camps.*

(a) In special instances, where Scouts are attending educational or similar institutions and/or camps which give an intensive Scouting program, said institutions and camps may, upon application, be authorized by the Corporation to give the prescribed examinations and pass Scouts in such manner and with such special conditions as the facts presented (as to the facilities and leadership of the institution or camp) may, in the judgment of the Corporation, warrant.

(b) Upon the recommendation of the Corporation, authority may be granted annually for the above privileges to Scout camps or camps conducted by authorized representatives of the Boy Scouts of America that submit evidence of maintaining the program standards, provided their programs have been approved by the Corporation. No exception shall be made to the time requirements to qualify for rank advancement or for the award of Eagle palms.

**Responsibility for Merit Badges**

*Clause 13.* The responsibility for merit badges shall rest with the merit badge counselor approved by the local council and district advancement committee. Merit badge counselors shall be registered adult members of the Boy Scouts of America. The merit badge counselor shall prepare and qualify youth members. There shall be no board of review procedure for merit badges, but public recognition may be given at a unit court of honor or other suitable occasion.

**ACTIVITIES**

**SECTION 2.**

**Anniversary Celebration**

*Clause 1.* The anniversary celebration of the Boy Scouts of America shall take place annually on February 8, the anniversary of the original day of incorporation of the Boy Scouts of America, and throughout the week (beginning on Sunday) containing this date. This week is known as Scouting Anniversary Week.

*Clause 2.* The national office of the Corporation through its various officers and with the cooperation of Scouters throughout the country shall arrange for a nationwide celebration on February 8 and throughout the month of February for the purpose of bringing more definitely to the attention of each community the value of the Scouting program for work with boys and young adults for the development of character and training for citizenship.

*Clause 3.* The program for the anniversary celebration of the Boy Scouts of America shall include a plan whereby every registered youth member shall be given an opportunity to observe Anniversary Day, February 8, with special ceremonies in which they recommit themselves to the Scout Oath or Promise and Law.

*Clause 4.* On this occasion it shall be the duty of the unit leader and other leaders to bring to the attention of the unit members the extent of the Scouting brotherhood in our own country and throughout the world and impress upon their minds the fact that every member the world over is committed to the same obligation, as stated in the Scout Oath or Promise and Law. (Amended October 17, 2012)

**Scouting Bands**

*Clause 5.* Bands and bugle (or fife) and/or drum corps may be organized among members of the Boy Scouts of America and provided with suitable insignia indicating this special membership, provided, however, that the purpose of such organization shall be primarily and distinctively for the development of the boy and young adult along lines in harmony with the aims and objectives of the movement and that the members thereof also carry out the regular program.

**Participant Fees**

*Clause 6.* All national events and activities for which a participant fee is charged, to be determined from time to time by the Executive Board, must include a surcharge for the national liability insurance program.

**BOYS' LIFE MAGAZINE**

**SECTION 3.**

The Corporation shall publish a periodical entitled *Boys' Life* for all boys of Scouting age, providing wholesome stories and other material of interest and educational value, which will stimulate ambition and help in character development of boys. All stories and material shall be in harmony with the principles of Scouting as set forth in the Scout Oath and Scout Law.

**INSIGNIA, UNIFORMS, AND BADGES**

**SECTION 4.**

**General**

*Clause 1.* The badges and other official insignia and the uniforms of the Boy Scouts of America shall be made available only to, and used only by, registered youth members or officials and other members who have satisfactorily complied with the requirements prescribed by the Corporation.

**Official Uniforms**

*Clause 2.* The official uniforms authorized as evidence of official relationship to the Boy Scouts of America shall be those approved by action of the Executive Board of the Boy Scouts of America from time to time, as illustrated and correctly described in the handbooks, catalogs, and other official publications of the Boy Scouts of America.

**Protection of Uniforms**

*Clause 3.* Restricted Sale and Use. The sale and use of the appropriate uniform as specified shall be restricted to members of the Boy Scouts of America who are registered and in good standing, according to the records of the organization. It shall be the responsibility of all members of the Boy Scouts of America and especially of all commissioned officers and chartered councils to cooperate with the Corporation in preventing the use of the official uniforms by those who are not members of the organization in good standing.

*Clause 4.* Prohibition of Alteration or Imitation.

(a) No alteration of, or additions to, the official uniforms, as described in the official publications, or the rules and regulations covering the wearing of the uniform and the proper combinations thereof on official occasions, may be authorized by any Scouting official or local council or any local executive board or committee, except the Executive Board of the Boy Scouts of America after consideration by Council Operations.

(b) Imitation of United States Army, Navy, or Marine Corps uniforms is prohibited, in accordance with the provisions of the organization's Congressional Charter.

**Distribution of Uniforms**

*Clause 5.* The official uniforms and parts thereof shall be issued only as authorized by the Executive Board of the Boy Scouts of America and sold either directly by the national office—through responsible local merchants designated as local Scouting distributors—or through designated local councils. Local Scouting distributors may be appointed and licensed and the licenses revoked only by the national office, but chartered local councils may make recommendations for such actions.

**Use of Uniform**

*Clause 6.* The official uniforms are intended primarily for use in connection with Scouting activities as defined by the national Executive Board, and their use may be approved by the local council executive board for council events or activities under conditions consistent with the Rules and Regulations of the Boy Scouts of America.

*Clause 7.* Use Abroad. Members of the Boy Scouts of America, whose address of registration is within the United States, shall not wear the official uniforms nor any official Scouting badges and insignia outside the limits of the United States except when carrying international letters of introduction issued by the Corporation or as members of groups traveling with tour permits issued by the Corporation.

**Protection and Use of Badges and Insignia**

*Clause 8.* All badges and insignia of the Boy Scouts of America shall be used exclusively by members of the Boy Scouts of America, registered and in good standing according to the records at the national office, who qualify in accordance with the provisions herein set forth or as may be authorized by the Executive Board from time to time and published in the official handbooks by the Corporation.

*Clause 9.* All badges and insignia shall remain the property of the Boy Scouts of America subject to recall for cause by the Corporation or its duly authorized representative.

**Alteration of Badges and Insignia**

*Clause 10.* No alteration of, or additions to, the official badges and insignia or in the rules and regulations governing their use or their location upon the uniform may be authorized by any Scouting official, local council, local executive board, or committee except the Executive Board of the Boy Scouts of America and committees specifically authorized thereof.

**Special Local Badges and Insignia**

*Clause 11.* Local councils are authorized to adopt special badges and insignia as awards for particular purposes in harmony with national policies and to permit their use upon the official uniform in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the Corporation, but such awards must be approved as to purpose and design by the Corporation in advance.

**Authorization**

*Clause 12.* The national office shall have the sole right to authorize the use of insignia, words, phrases, designation marks, pictorial representation, and descriptive remarks relating to the program of the Corporation on commercial products, promotional efforts, and/or sale and distribution to members of the Boy Scouts of America and/or the general public. The use of same by local councils shall be only as authorized and approved by the national office.

**LIFESAVING AND MERITORIOUS ACTION AWARDS****SECTION 5.****Lifesaving Awards**

*Clause 1.* Lifesaving Awards. Recognition may be given to a youth member or adult leader of the Boy Scouts of America where the evidence presented to the National Court of Honor, in accordance with prescribed regulations, shows that he or she saved or attempted to save life under circumstances which indicate heroism and risk to self. The court will give consideration to resourcefulness and to demonstrated skill in rescue methods. In no case shall recognition be given where it appears that the risk involved was merely in the performance of duty or the meeting of an obligation because of responsibility to supervise and give leadership to the persons whose lives were saved. The awards are:

(a) Honor Medal With Crossed Palms. The Honor Medal With Crossed Palms may be awarded in exceptional cases to a youth member or adult leader who has demonstrated unusual heroism and extraordinary skill or resourcefulness in saving or attempting to save life at extreme risk to self.

(b) Honor Medal. The Honor Medal may be awarded to a youth member or adult leader who has demonstrated unusual heroism and skill in saving or attempting to save life at considerable risk to self.

(Amended October 17, 2012)

**Meritorious Action Awards**

*Clause 2.* Meritorious Action Awards. Recognition may be given to a youth member or adult leader where the evidence presented to the National Court of Honor, in accordance with prescribed regulations, shows that a significant or outstanding act of service, of an

exceptional character, was performed. The action taken need not involve attempts of rescue or risk to self but must put into practice Scouting skills and/or ideals. Recognition shall not be given where it appears that the action involved was merely in the performance of duty or the meeting of an obligation. The awards are:

(a) Medal of Merit. The Medal of Merit may be awarded to a youth member or adult leader who has performed an act of service of a rare or exceptional character that reflects an uncommon degree of concern for the well-being of others.

(b) National Certificate of Merit. The National Certificate of Merit may be awarded to a youth member or adult leader who has performed a significant act of service that is deserving of special national recognition.

*Clause 3.* All applications should be submitted to the National Court of Honor through the local council upon duly prescribed forms, and it shall be within the discretion of the National Court of Honor to determine which type of recognition, if any, shall be given. Recipients of these awards must be registered members of the Boy Scouts of America at the time the action was performed. Awards are made in the name of the Boy Scouts of America.

#### **AWARDS FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO YOUTH**

##### **SECTION 6.**

##### **Silver Buffalo Award**

*Clause 1.* The Boy Scouts of America may award the Silver Buffalo for distinguished service to citizens of the United States upon the following basis and procedure:

(a) These awards may be made each year.

(b) The award is made on the basis of noteworthy service to youth, of a national or international character, outside of the line of regular duty, either directly to or independent of the Boy Scouts of America.

(c) As evidence of the award there shall be presented: a suitable certificate, descriptive of the services rendered, duly authenticated by the Boy Scouts of America, pursuant to the action of the Executive Board; and a miniature Silver Buffalo, suspended by a red, white, and red ribbon to be worn around the neck.

(d) These awards shall be made at the meeting of the National Council or at a major function of the Boy Scouts of America, pursuant to the action of the Executive Board, which action shall be based upon recommendation to the Executive Board by the National Court of Honor, or by recommendations to the Executive Board by the president of the corporation and the Chief Scout Executive.

##### **Silver Antelope Award**

*Clause 2.* The Boy Scouts of America, acting through the National Court of Honor, may award the Silver Antelope for distinguished service to youth upon the following basis and procedure:

(a) This award may be made each year upon the nomination of the regional cabinet. The nomination shall be submitted not less than 30 days in advance of the date upon which it is desired to present the award.

(b) This award may be made for noteworthy service of exceptional character to youth by registered Scouters, Cub Scouters, Varsity Scouters, and Venturing leaders within the territory under the jurisdiction of a regional cabinet.

(c) As evidence of the award there shall be presented: a suitable certificate, duly authenticated by the Boy Scouts of America, pursuant to the action of the National Court of Honor; and a miniature Silver Antelope suspended by an orange, white, and orange ribbon to be worn around the neck.

(d) It shall be a general policy that no public announcements shall be made by the region in advance of action of the National Court of Honor with reference to the names presented for consideration.

(e) These awards shall be presented to the recipients by the region in connection with its annual meeting or other public function, but only after approval of the award by the National Court of Honor.

(f) Each region shall be entitled to eight recipients per region per year.

(g) Unused allotments for any previous years may not be accumulated or used in any subsequent year.

(h) The National Court of Honor may, based upon initial recommendation of the Operations Group, award the Silver Antelope to persons in overseas areas.

##### **Silver Beaver Award**

*Clause 3.* The Boy Scouts of America, acting through the National Court of Honor, may award the Silver Beaver Award for distinguished service to youth upon the following basis and procedure:

(a) Each council may process their own annual allotment of Silver Beaver awards and shall send a list of Silver Beaver recipients honored each calendar year to the National Court of Honor no later than January 31st of the following year. (Amended October 12, 2011)

(b) The award is made for noteworthy service of exceptional character to youth by registered Scouters, Cub Scouters, Varsity Scouters, and Venturing leaders within the territory under the jurisdiction of a local council.

(c) As evidence of the award there shall be presented: a suitable certificate, duly authenticated by the Boy Scouts of America, pursuant to the action of the National Court of Honor; and a miniature Silver Beaver suspended by a blue, white, and blue ribbon to be worn around the neck.

(d) It shall be a general policy that no public announcements shall be made by the local council in advance of action by the National Court of Honor with reference to names presented for consideration.

(e) These awards shall be made to the recipients by the local council concerned in connection with its annual meeting or other public function.

(f) Each duly chartered local council shall be entitled to one nomination. Councils having more than 60 units shall be entitled to further nominations on the basis of one for each additional 60 units or fraction thereof in their territory, as of December 31 preceding the nomination, according to the records of the national office.

(g) Councils not using their full allotment in any year may accumulate the unused portion for use in any subsequent year.

(h) In extraordinary cases the Silver Beaver Award may be made by the National Court of Honor to a Scouter upon the recommenda-

tion of the duly constituted Scouting authorities having supervision of one or more units of the Boy Scouts of America, located outside of the United States and not under the jurisdiction of a local council.

**Silver World Award**

*Clause 4.* The Boy Scouts of America through the National Court of Honor which has delegated the selection of recipients as herein-after provided may award the Silver World Award for distinguished service to youth as follows:

- (a) The award may be presented to citizens of any country whose Scout association is a member of the World Scout Conference, in recognition of his or her service of exceptional character to the youth of his or her own country, or on an international basis.
- (b) The recipient does not have to be a member of a Scout association. United States citizens may receive the Silver World Award for international service to youth, provided they are not registered members of the Boy Scouts of America.
- (c) Approved awards may be presented by an authorized member of the Boy Scouts of America either by a personal visit with the recipient or at an official meeting of a national Scout association, including the BSA.

(d) Designation of recipients of the Silver World, by authority of the International Committee and the Executive Board, is delegated to the following:

- President of the Boy Scouts of America
- Chief Scout Executive
- International Commissioner
- Chairman of the International Committee

(e) The award may be granted upon the concurrence of any three of the above. Awards may be made at any time on behalf of the International Committee and the national Executive Board. The International Committee receives a full report of the Silver World Award designation at each meeting and will maintain accumulative records of awards including support data.

(f) As evidence of the award there will be presented: a suitable certificate duly authorized by the Boy Scouts of America. The design will be a circular blue enameled silver medallion upon which will be superimposed meridian lines and stars signifying the global scope of the award. An applied silver universal badge of the Boy Scouts of America will be centered upon the front of the medallion. The award will be suspended upon a red and white ribbon and will be worn about the neck of the recipient, when such practice does not conflict with approved uniforming policy.

## ARTICLE XI. BUSINESS, FINANCE, PROPERTIES, CONTRACTS, REGISTRATION

### FINANCE

SECTION 1.

**Local Council and Unit Finance**

*Clause 1.* Control of Funds.

- (a) Limitation of Authority. No unit or local council shall have authority to commit the National Council to any financial obligation whatever.
- (b) Purpose. All money raised by or received for the benefit of a unit or local council and all property acquired by a unit or local council shall be deemed to be received or acquired solely for the benefit of Scouting as interpreted and promoted by the Boy Scouts of America.
- (c) Local Council Control. Subject to general rules and regulations adopted by the National Council or Executive Board, local councils shall control the raising and expenditure of all funds for local Scouting work in their jurisdiction.
- (d) Annual Reports. Each chartered local council shall render annually to the community in which it is located a duly audited statement of all funds collected and expended and shall furnish a copy thereof to the national office.
- (e) Gambling. Any fundraising project designated to benefit chartered organization units, districts, local councils, or on a national basis which involves games of chance, lotteries, sale of raffle tickets, bingo, or which could be construed as a gambling activity, is not permitted.

(f) Product Sales. The National Council will not engage in a product sale at the national level.

(g) Insignia. The National Council shall have the sole right to authorize the use of insignia, words, phrases, designation marks, pictorial representations, and descriptive remarks relating to the program of the Corporation on commercial products, promotional efforts, and/or sale and distribution to members of the Boy Scouts of America and/or the general public. The use of the same by local councils shall be only as authorized by the national office.

(h) Pyramid Sales, Multilevel Marketing. Any fundraising projects on a unit, council, or national basis which are in the nature of pyramid sales or multilevel marketing are not permitted.

(i) A local council may charge a unit activity fee or a participant surcharge, to be determined from time to time by the local council, to be applied to council national liability insurance program charges.

*Clause 2.* Disposition of Funds Upon Termination of Local Council or Unit.

(a) Council Obligations. In the event of the dissolution of a council or the revocation or lapse of its charter, the Executive Board may, at its option, assume charge of the affairs of the council and continue operation pending reorganization or reestablishment of the council or wind up the business of the council, applying all funds and property in the possession or control of such council to the payment of its obligations and administering any surplus funds or property as it may, in its judgment, deem to be in the best interests of Scouting.

(b) Unit Obligations. In the event of the dissolution of a unit or the revocation or lapse of its charter, the unit committee shall apply unit funds and property to the payment of unit obligations and shall turn over the surplus, if any, to the local council, if there is one, or if there is no local council, dispose of the same in accordance with the direction of the Executive Board of the Boy Scouts of America. In the case of a chartered organization, any funds or equipment which may have been secured as property of the unit shall be held in trust by the chartering organization or the chartered local council, as may be agreed upon, pending reorganization of the unit or for the promotion of the program of the Boy Scouts of America.

(c) Administration of Local Funds by Corporation. Any property or funds acquired by the Executive Board upon the dissolution of a Scouting unit or local council shall be administered so as to make effective, as far as possible, the intentions and wishes of the donors.

(d) Special Funds. Special funds created for specific purposes, acquired by a unit or local council, shall be vested in either (i): a bank, trust company, BSA Intravest Trust, in trust; or (ii) Boy Scouts of America Commingled Endowment Fund, LP, in all cases for the use of the unit or the local council, in accordance with the wishes of the donors, with the provision in the statement of the conditions governing the administering of the funds that in the event of the dissolution of the unit or council or revocation or lapse of its charter said funds will, after any claims against said funds are satisfied, be turned over to the Boy Scouts of America for use by the Boy Scouts of America for the benefit of Scouting in such locality and for the specific purposes for which the fund was granted. If there is no suitable opportunity for the use of said funds in such locality, it may be used elsewhere.

**REAL ESTATE**

**SECTION 2.**

**Local Council**

Title to Real Estate. Except as hereafter provided in this clause with respect to incorporated local councils, the title to all real estate acquired for a unit or local council shall be vested in a bank or trust company, in trust for the use of the unit or local council in accordance with the wishes of the donors, with a provision in the deed that in the event of the dissolution of the unit or council or the revocation or lapse of its charter said trustee or trustees will, after satisfying any claims against such unit or council to which such real estate may be subject, convey said property or, if sold, pay the net proceeds of such sale to the Boy Scouts of America, which shall hold or use said property or funds for the benefit of Scouting in such locality or elsewhere if there is not suitable opportunity to use said property or funds in such locality. Any incorporated local council may hold title to real property in its own name provided its certificate or articles of incorporation expressly provide for the conveyance of such property or the net proceeds from the sale thereof to the Boy Scouts of America in the event of the dissolution of the local council or the revocation or lapse of its charter.

**REGISTRATION**

**SECTION 3.**

**Local Council Registration**

*Clause 1.* Council Charter and National Service Fees

(a) Applications for new or renewal charters stipulate a number of requirements, which must be satisfied in order to maintain the local council in good standing.

(b) An annual registration fee, known as the council charter fee and determined from time to time by the Executive Board and announced to the field, will be paid by local councils to the national office upon charter application or renewal application.

(c) An annual assessment, known as the national service fee, for which the calculation will be determined from time to time by the Executive Board and announced to the field, will be paid by the local councils to the national office. This fee will be paid during the 10-month period beginning with February and ending in November.

**Unit Registration**

*Clause 2.* There is an annual unit charter fee determined from time to time by the Executive Board and announced to the field. This fee is paid to the national office each time a unit registers or reregisters and is in addition to the individual membership registration fees. No additional unit charter or registration fees shall be imposed by a local council without the prior authorization of the National Council Executive Board.

*Clause 3.* Expiration of Unit Registration. The expiration of the registration of units shall normally be 12 months from the last day of the month in which the original organization of the unit was approved by the local council or, in the case of units not under local council supervision, by the Corporation.

The rights and privileges of all the members of a unit expire with the expiration of the unit registration.

*Clause 4.* Dropped Units. In cases where units have been dropped from the records under conditions which they could not avoid, they may have their record of continuous service reestablished by submitting evidence of continued activity and paying registration fees from the date of charter expiration.

**Term of Membership**

*Clause 5.* The expiration of registered membership shall be as follows:

(a) National Council members and officers and regional committee members and officers, at the end of the period for which they have been duly elected, unless registered in some other capacity.

(b) Scouters serving in council and district capacities only and members of the Scouters' Reserve, with the expiration of the council year for which they are issued. (This does not include the chartered organization representative(s).)

(c) Unit Scouters serving in unit capacities only (including chartered organization representative(s) or group of citizens, with the unit charter.

(d) Unit members, with the expiration of the registration of their respective units.

(e) Lone Cub Scouts and Lone Cub Scout friends and counselors, annually, 1 year from the date of their last registration.

(f) Lone Boy Scouts and Lone Boy Scout friends and counselors, annually, 1 year from the date of their last registration.

(g) Registered retired professional Scouters, annually, 1 year from the date of their last registration.

(h) Individuals (adult or youth members) holding an unexpired registration certificate transferring from unit to council, council to unit, or unit to unit pay a membership transfer charge. This charge applies to all transfers during the charter year, but shall not apply to Tigers becoming Cub Scouts in their affiliated pack. (Amended October 20, 2013)

### Registration of Youth Members

*Clause 6.* Youth membership with the Boy Scouts of America requires the payment of an annual registration fee determined from time to time by the National Council Executive Board and announced to the field. No additional youth membership registration fees shall be imposed by a local council without the prior authorization of the National Council Executive Board.

*Clause 7.* Venturers may participate in more than one Venturing unit as well as a Boy Scout troop or Varsity Scout team with the payment of one primary registration in a Venturing unit.

*Clause 8.* Scouting units are small, intimate groups. In the Cub Scout and Boy Scout programs, the units are made up of even smaller groups, dens, and patrols, which often meet regularly in private homes. As long as they are faithful to Scouting's membership philosophy, set forth below, it is for the units to determine on the basis of considerations such as group size or youth behavior whether to admit or to continue the membership of a youth member. It is the philosophy of the Scouting movement to welcome all boys and young people, regardless of race or ethnic background, who are willing to accept Scouting's values and meet other requirements of membership. Young people of all religious backgrounds are welcomed in Scouting, some participating in units for youths of a particular religion, and the greater majority participating in units open to members of various religious backgrounds.

### Registration of Adult Members

*Clause 9.* There shall be an annual registration fee determined from time to time by the Executive Board and announced to the field, a portion of which is for a subscription to *Scouting* magazine for adult members. When additional names of members are added to a unit or council for a registration period of less than a year, the fee is prorated.

*Clause 10.* If an adult member serves in more than one capacity, only one registration fee is required.

### Procedure for Registration

*Clause 11.* All applications shall be submitted on official forms prepared for that purpose and carrying due reference to the requirements and provisions of the Bylaws of the Boy Scouts of America.

*Clause 12.* The Corporation shall issue to each approved registrant a suitable certificate of membership or commission designating the applicant's official relationship to the Boy Scouts of America.

### Special Types of Registration

*Clause 13.* Sustaining. Persons who desire to be identified with the local council through their financial support and influence in the expansion of the council program may be enrolled as sustaining members of local councils. They may, if the council desires, be elected as associate members in accordance with article VI, section 1, clause 2, of these Rules and Regulations.

*Clause 14.* Camp Staff Members. Young men and women, 16 years of age and over, who are employed as members of a camp staff, and who are not already registered, shall be registered by the employing council as camp staff members.

*Clause 15.* College Scouter Reserve. College students who will commit themselves to an informed interest and active participation in the program, whenever possible, may be registered as members of the College Scouter Reserve.

*Clause 16.* Merit Badge Counselors. Persons who are at least 18 years of age may serve as merit badge counselors in subjects for which they are qualified and must register as such as adult Scouters as provided in this section. A fee for such registration shall not be required.

*Clause 17.* Scouter Reserve. Individuals 21 years of age and over may upon approval of the local council register as members of the Scouter Reserve of the Boy Scouts of America by paying the registration fee required of a Scouter. Individuals so registered may serve in the following ways: as faculty members of Cub Scout training courses, assisting in organizing and training in connection with Cub Scout packs, Varsity Scout teams, with Venturing crews and Sea Scout ships, and as hosts and hostesses, and by helping in finance and public relations campaigns. They may serve as members of fathers' and mothers' clubs, parents' clubs, and auxiliaries of units. Members of the Scouter Reserve may wear the universal badge of Scouting to signify their membership.

*Clause 18.* Veteran Award. After 5 years of duly registered service in the Boy Scouts of America, individuals may upon application receive the designation of "veteran," provided they agree to live up to their Scouting obligations and to keep local Scouting authorities in the community in which they live informed as to their availability for service. A special badge shall be made available to veterans. Such veterans, maintaining an active registered relationship in any capacity, shall pay the regular registration fees of their class. Veterans, desiring recognition as veterans for periods of time established by the Corporation for particular recognition, must maintain active registered relationship for the required number of years, paying their annual registration fees.

*Clause 19.* Retired Professional Scouters. Persons who have been retired from professional Scouting may be registered on an annual basis with the national office of the Corporation upon the approval of the Corporation.

*Clause 20.* Mentally Retarded or Severely Physically Disabled Youth Members. In the discretion of the Executive Board, and under such rules and regulations as it may prescribe upon consultation with appropriate medical authorities, registration of boys who are either mentally retarded or severely physically handicapped, including the blind, deaf, and emotionally disturbed, over age 11 as Cub Scouts and over age 18 as Boy Scouts, or Varsity Scouts, and registration of young adults who are either mentally retarded or severely

physically handicapped, including the blind, deaf, and emotionally disturbed, over age 21 as Venturers, and the participation of each in the respective advancement programs while registered, is authorized.

*Clause 21. Confidentiality of Membership.* The Boy Scouts of America has the responsibility to protect the confidentiality of the names and personal information of those who are affiliated with the movement. No commercial or unauthorized use is to be made of the lists (names, addresses, and other confidential information) of members or of financial supporters, or those who answer surveys in

connection with Scouting. Results of surveys may be shared by local councils with existing or potential chartered organizations in the normal pursuit of membership growth.

**Denial of Registration**

*Clause 22.* Article VIII, section 1, of the Bylaws sets forth the right of the Boy Scouts of America to set standards of membership and leadership. The procedure for maintaining those standards through denial of registration is expressed in a publication titled *Procedures for Maintaining Standards of Membership*.

## ARTICLE XII. AFFILIATES

### NATIONAL EAGLE SCOUT ASSOCIATION

#### SECTION 1.

*Clause 1.* The Corporation shall establish and operate a National Eagle Scout Association whose primary purpose will be to conserve and develop the manpower potential represented by those who hold Eagle Scout rank. The organizational structure and operating practices of the National Eagle Scout Association shall be in harmony with the principles of Scouting. The Executive Board of the Corporation shall receive an annual report of the work and have jurisdiction over the National Eagle Scout Association.

*Clause 2.* The National Eagle Scout Association (“NESA”) shall be governed by a national NESA Committee, which shall report to the appropriate standing committee. The NESA Committee shall be chaired by a president who is appointed by the President of the Boy Scouts of America and approved by the Executive Board of the Boy Scouts of America. The NESA president shall be elected to or be a member of the National Advisory Council or the Executive Board of the Boy Scouts of America.

### ORDER OF THE ARROW

#### SECTION 2.

The Corporation shall operate a national honor society of the Boy Scouts of America known as the Order of the Arrow. The purposes of the Order of the Arrow shall be to recognize those Scout campers who best exemplify the Scout Oath or Promise and Law in their daily lives, to develop and maintain camping traditions and spirit, to promote Scout camping, and to crystallize the Scout habit of helpfulness into a life purpose of leadership in cheerful service to others.

### SCOUTING ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

#### SECTION 3.

The Corporation shall operate an alumni association known as the Scouting Alumni Association for individuals who are either alumni or supporters of the Boy Scouts of America. The purposes of the Scouting Alumni Association shall be to offer discounts, recognition items, and benefits to dues-paying alumni and other individuals who wish to support the Boy Scouts of America and local councils. The organizational structure and operating practices of the Scouting Alumni Association shall be in harmony with the principles of Scouting.

(Amended October 12, 2011)

## ARTICLE XIII. SPECIAL SITUATIONS

### EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAMS

#### SECTION 1.

Any experimental program which is inconsistent with the provisions of the Bylaws or these Rules and Regulations may be adopted subject to the following restrictions.

*Clause 1.* It must be approved by the Executive Board upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee.

*Clause 2.* The geographical areas affected shall be clearly defined.

*Clause 3.* A termination date shall be fixed.

*Clause 4.* A progress report shall be made to the Executive Board:

- (a) If an extension is requested or
- (b) At the Executive Board meeting next preceding the termination date.

### OVERSEAS SCOUTING

#### SECTION 2.

##### Direct Service Units

*Clause 1.* General. To further its objectives of extending membership privileges to citizens of the United States in other parts of the world, the Corporation authorizes the registration of youth members and leaders and the establishment of units in areas lying outside of the jurisdiction of any local council.

*Clause 2.* Policy of Cooperation. To foster and strengthen the close and friendly relationship that exists between the Boy Scouts of America and other Scout associations, members and leaders of units will work in close harmony with their fellow Scouts and Scouters in the area.

##### World Organization of the Scout Movement

*Clause 3.* Operation of Scouting units in the United States for member associations of the World Organization of the Scout Movement.

Member associations of the World Organization of the Scout Movement may organize, administer, and service units of their association for dependents of their citizens living temporarily in

the United States. Such permission to be granted upon certification by the national office, under the following conditions:

- (a) The approval to establish a unit will be on an annual basis and may be extended upon review of status as reflected in an annual report.
- (b) Registration will be restricted to citizens and dependents of member countries. No registration will be accepted or allowed in the unit from citizens of the United States or any third country.
- (c) The condition of registration will reflect agreements as to the use of Boy Scouts of America uniforms, badges, and insignia. In this instance only would there be a requirement for dual registration.
- (d) There will normally be no registration fee assessed by the Boy Scouts of America for either a unit or individual member.
- (e) Standards of certification will include membership qualifications, use of insignia and uniform, and adherence to the basic policy, program, and methods of the World Organization of the Scout Movement.

### LEARNING FOR LIFE

#### SECTION 3.

*Clause 1.* To further the mission of the Boy Scouts of America to meet and serve the needs of youth and communities, the Corporation authorizes the establishment of an affiliated separate corporation to be known as Learning for Life, to work in cooperation with our nation's schools and businesses.

*Clause 2.* Learning for Life is a nontraditional, nonmembership, educational outreach program that takes place during or after school hours and is not part of the traditional Scouting program.

*Clause 3.* Exploring is Learning for Life's worksite-based program for young men and women who are 14 (and have completed the eighth grade) through 20 years old.

*Clause 4.* Exploring is based on five areas of emphasis: career opportunities, life skills, citizenship, character education, and leadership experience. Local community organizations initiate an Explorer post by matching their people and program resources to the interests of young people in the community.

*Clause 5.* The program, organization, and administration of and qualifications for participation in Learning for Life shall be established by Learning for Life.

## ARTICLE XIV. INDEMNIFICATION

(See Bylaws.)

## ARTICLE XV. WAIVERS AND AMENDMENTS

(See Bylaws.)

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