



RANK WORKSHEET

Scout

Scouts BSA

Name

Started

Completed

Scout rank is your first step on the trail. It's about learning what Scouting stands for, getting to know your patrol, and picking up a few skills you'll use on every campout. Most new Scouts finish it in their first few weeks.

Requirements

Every official requirement, in plain language. Check the official wording when you sign off (scouting.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Scouts-BSA-Rank-Requirements.pdf). Tips and examples are ideas, not extra requirements.

1 Scout ideals

- ☐ **1a** Say the Scout Oath, Law, motto, and slogan from memory, and explain what they mean in your own words

Tip: Say the Oath, Law, motto, and slogan a little each day, at breakfast or in the car. Then pick a few points and tell a parent what they mean to you.

Example: Explaining can be short and personal. For Trustworthy: "People can believe what I say. If I break my brother's headphones, I tell him instead of hiding them." For the slogan, "Do a Good Turn Daily" might mean holding a door or helping a neighbor carry groceries.

- ☐ **1b** Explain what Scout spirit is and describe ways you have shown it by living the Oath, Law, motto, and slogan

Tip: Think of a time you were helpful or kind without being asked. That's Scout spirit, and it's a great example to share.

Example: Scout spirit is living the Oath and Law when no one is grading you. One example: you noticed a new student sitting alone at lunch, sat with them, and introduced them to your friends.

- ☐ **1c** Show the Scout sign, salute, and handshake, and tell when to use each

Tip: Practice the sign, salute, and handshake with a family member. Watch for when older Scouts use each one at meetings.

- ☐ **1d** Describe the First Class badge, tell what each part stands for, and explain why the badge is significant

Tip: Look closely at the First Class badge in your handbook or on an older Scout's uniform, and point out each part as you explain it.

- ☐ **1e** Say the Outdoor Code from memory, list the seven Leave No Trace principles, and explain how the two differ

Tip: Learn the Outdoor Code and the seven Leave No Trace principles side by side. Notice which ideas overlap and which are different.

Example: One way to explain the difference: the Outdoor Code is a promise about who you'll be outdoors (clean, careful with fire, considerate, and conservation-minded), while Leave No Trace is seven how-to principles, like planning ahead and disposing of waste properly.

- ☐ **1f** Say the Pledge of Allegiance from memory and explain its meaning in your own words

Tip: Say the Pledge slowly and think about the big words, like allegiance and liberty. Ask a parent what the Pledge means to them.

Example: Put a few words in your own language: "allegiance" means loyalty, a "republic" is a country where people elect their leaders, and "liberty and justice for all" is the goal of freedom and fair treatment for every person.

2 Troop and advancement (after a troop meeting)

Tips for this section: Pay attention at your next troop meeting to who runs things. Ask an older Scout how they moved up the ranks and how they earned their first merit badge.

- ☐ **2a** Describe how the troop is led by its Scouts

Example: At your next meeting, notice who does what: the senior patrol leader runs the agenda, patrol leaders take their patrols aside, and a scribe takes attendance. Then describe it: "Scouts planned and ran the meeting, and the adults mostly helped."

- ☐ **2b** Describe the four steps of advancement in Scouting

Example: Walk through the four steps with one skill: you learn the taut-line hitch from a troop guide, you're tested when you tie it for a leader, your progress is reviewed, and you're recognized when your rank is presented.

- ☐ **2c** Describe the Scouts BSA ranks and how each one is earned

- ☐ **2d** Explain what merit badges are and how you earn them

3 Patrols

Tips for this section: Help your patrol pick or improve a yell and flag. Learning your patrol's name and symbols is a fun way to feel part of the team.

- ☐ **3a** Explain the patrol method and describe the kinds of patrols your troop uses

Example: Explain it like a team: a patrol is a small group of Scouts who camp, cook, and plan together and elect their own leader. Your troop might have a new-Scout patrol, mixed-age patrols, or a patrol of older Scouts.

- ☐ **3b** Get to know your patrol's name, emblem, flag, and yell, and explain how they build patrol spirit

4 Knots and rope care

- ☐ **4a** Tie the square knot, two half-hitches, and taut-line hitch, and explain how each is used

Tip: Use a short rope at home and practice each knot until you can tie it without looking. For each one, think of a camp job it would do.

Example: Give each knot a job: the square knot ties the ends of a bandage, two half-hitches tie a clothesline around a post, and the taut-line hitch makes a loop you can slide to tighten a tent guyline.

- ☐ **4b** Care for rope by whipping and fusing the ends of several types of rope

Tip: Ask an older Scout to show you how to whip and fuse rope ends. Fuse only with an adult nearby, since it uses a flame and melted rope gets hot.

☐ **5** Explain what you need to know to use a pocketknife safely and responsibly

Tip: Learn the safety circle and how to open, close, and pass a knife before you use one. Earning the Totin' Chip is a great next step.

Example: Explain the safety circle: before you open a knife, hold your arm out with the closed knife and turn slowly to check that no one is within reach. Then cover cutting away from your body, closing the blade before you walk, and passing it closed or handle-first.

6 Youth protection with your family

Tips for this section: Set aside a quiet evening with a parent for the Parent's Guide exercises and videos. It's a good, honest conversation about staying safe.

☐ **6a** With a parent or guardian, do the exercises in the Parent's Guide pamphlet on protecting children from abuse

☐ **6b** With a parent or guardian's permission, watch the Personal Safety Awareness videos (your Scoutmaster may waive the videos with your family if you have no internet access)

☐ **7** Have a Scoutmaster conference after joining the troop, while working on Scout rank

Tip: The Scoutmaster conference is a friendly chat, not a test. Come ready to share what you've enjoyed so far and what you're looking forward to.