

**Scout Rank Study Guide**  
**Troop 412**  
**Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church**  
**Durham, NC**

*prepared by Greg Vydra, ASM, March 20, 2008*



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**Requirements for the Scout badge:**

1. Meet age requirements: Be a boy who has completed the fifth grade and be at least 10 years old, or be 11 years old, or have earned the Arrow of Light Award and be at least 10 years old, and be under 18 years old.
2. Complete a Boy Scout application and health history signed by your parent or guardian.
3. Find a Scout troop near your home. (To find a troop, contact your local Boy Scout Council. The Council name, address and phone number can be found on BSA's Council Locator Page.)
4. Repeat the Pledge of Allegiance.
5. Demonstrate the Scout sign, salute, and handshake.
6. Demonstrate tying the square knot (a joining knot).
7. Understand and agree to live by the Scout Oath or Promise, Scout Law, motto, and slogan, and the Outdoor Code.
8. Describe the Scout badge.
9. Complete the Pamphlet Exercises. With your parent or guardian, complete the exercises in the pamphlet "How to Protect Your Children from Child Abuse: A Parent's Guide".
10. Participate in a Scoutmaster conference. Turn in your Boy Scout application and health history form signed by your parent or guardian, then participate in a Scoutmaster conference.

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Here's a good website with a brief review of all of the following:

<http://www.boyscouttrail.com/webelos/boyscoutreqsaid.a>

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**Pledge of Allegiance**

I pledge of allegiance to the Flag,  
of the United States of America,  
and to the Republic, for which it stands,  
one Nation under God,  
indivisible,  
with liberty and justice for all."

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## Scout Sign



- Right hand, first three fingers straight up, pinky tucked under thumb on palm, arm raised, shoulder and elbow both at 90° angle (important), palm forward.

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## Scout Salute



- Same right hand finger position as in the Scout Sign. Traditional military-like salute. Shoulder is at 90° angle. Right elbow is extended away from body and is in line with torso. Right forefinger touches forehead just above eyebrow. Right hand fingers parallel to ground.

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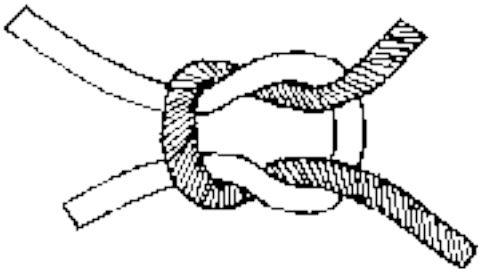
## Scout Handshake



- Regular handshake, but with left hand.
- It's the left hand, because in the days of battle with swords and shields, to shake hands with one's enemy using left hands meant that one needed to put down his shield, not his weapon. The Scout Handshake then is symbolic of expressing trust in the other person.

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## Square knot



- "Right over left, left over right"
- It's two overhand knots on top of each other, but tied in the opposite twist direction of each other.
- Two overhand knots tied with the same twist direction forms a "granny" knot.

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## Scout Oath

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.

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## Scout Law

A Scout is  
Trustworthy  
Loyal  
Helpful  
Friendly  
Courteous  
Kind  
Obedient  
Cheerful  
Thrifty  
Brave  
Clean, and  
Reverent

### Scout Law Meaning

- 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.

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**Scout Motto**

Be Prepared

*(I remember this by "two t's, two words.")*

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**Scout Slogan**

Do a Good Turn Daily

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**Outdoor Code**

As an American, I will do my best to—

- Be clean in my outdoor manners: I will treat the outdoors as a heritage. I will take care of it for myself and others. I will keep my trash and garbage out of lakes, streams, fields, woods, and roadways.
- Be careful with fire: I will prevent wildfire. I will build my fires only when and where they are appropriate. When I have finished using a fire, I will make sure it is cold out. I will leave a clean fire ring, or remove all evidence of my fire.
- Be considerate in the outdoors: I will treat public and private property with respect. I will follow the principles of Leave No Trace for all outdoor activities.
- Be conservation-minded: I will learn about and practice good conservation of soil, waters, forests, minerals, grasslands, wildlife, and energy. I will urge others to do the same.

*(Only the words before the colon are necessary to memorize. Even the main concepts of cleanliness, fire safety, respect / Leave No Trace, and conservation are enough to remember.)*

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**Pamphlet Exercise: How to Protect Your Children from Child Abuse: A Parents' Guide**

*See document, "Child Abuse Protection 46-015.pdf"*

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## Scout Badge



1. The shape of the Scout badge is called a trefoil or fleur de lis. Trefoil means three points. Fleur de lis is a French symbol of the petals of a lily, an emblem of peace and purity. Get it: "flower, the lily." The three points of the trefoil symbolize the three points of the Scout Oath. Since there don't appear to be three obvious points to the Scout Oath from the text, there are several ways to interpret that symbolism. Here's how we teach it in the Troop:
  - a. The first point is one's duty to things greater than himself: God, country, and character (as in living by the Scout Law). *"... do my duty to God and my country, and to obey the Scout Law."*
  - b. The second point is one's duty to other people, *"... to help other people at all times."*
  - c. The third point is one's duty to himself, *"... to keep myself physically strong, mentally fit, and morally straight."*
2. The trefoil looks like the North indicator on fancy maps. The center point on the trefoil represents a Scout's moral compass, which will guide him through the tough decisions in life, as a magnetic compass needle guides him across rough terrain.
3. The two stars represent truth and knowledge, which are goals of all seekers in life
4. The eagle and shield stand for freedom and a Scout's readiness to defend that freedom.
5. The scroll has the Scout Motto "Be Prepared" written on it. The scroll itself is in the shape of a smile, indicating that a Scout smiles as he does his duty.
6. The knot at the bottom of the scroll serves as a reminder (as in tying a knot around one's finger) of the Scout Slogan, "Do a Good Turn Daily."