



## WORLDWIDE SCOUTING EDITION

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Can you name the only patch worn by every Cub Scout, Boy Scout, and Venturer?

It's the World Scouting Crest. As a symbol of unity shared by all Scouts, it is featured on the uniforms of 28 million Scouts in 216 nations.



World Scout Crest Emblem

### World Scout Crest Emblem

Each element of the crest has meaning:

- **Purple background** = leadership and service to others
- **Rope and square knot** = unity of Scouting throughout the world
- **Stars** = truth and knowledge
- **Fleur-de-lis** = the three points of the Scout Oath or Promise

They all come together to symbolize the spirit of fellowship among Scouts everywhere.



## WORLDWIDE SCOUTING

Friendship and understanding among youth of all nations became especially important to Robert Baden-Powell, founder of the Scouting movement, when millions suffered during World War One. Soon after the war ended, he hosted the first World Jamboree in London to join together Scouts from around the globe in the name of peace.



The Jamboree Book, 1920, Boy Scout Association

A few of the 8,000 Scouts from 34 nations who attended the first World Jamboree

"Let us go forth from here fully determined that we will develop, among ourselves and our boys, a comradeship through the worldwide spirit of the Scout brotherhood," Baden-Powell told them, "so that we may help to develop peace and happiness in the world and goodwill among men."

A cartoon in Britain's *Punch* magazine of August, 1920, showed a war-weary world expressing approval for the Jamboree's message of peace and brotherhood among all:



## CITIZENSHIP IN THE WORLD MERIT BADGE

The 1911 Boy Scout Handbook included a merit badge for Civics. It encouraged a Scout to display knowledge of the government of the United States and of his community.



Civics - 1911-1946

In 1952, the Boy Scouts of America helped Scouts expand their vision by introducing the World Brotherhood merit badge. That evolved into today's merit badge for Citizenship in the World.



World Brotherhood

1952-1972



Citizenship in the World

1972-present

Scouts earning the badge have opportunities for understanding the values, traditions, and concerns of people in other countries, and realize the world is not so large after all.

## INTERPRETER STRIPS

Learning languages is a terrific way to expand awareness of other cultures and gain a powerful tool for exploring the planet. The founders of Scouting knew that, and included the Interpreting merit badge in the first BSA Handbook. So did Arthur Eldred, who mastered French while earning Interpreting as one

of the 21 merit badges that led to him becoming BSA's first Eagle Scout.



The requirements for today's Interpreter Strip are almost identical to those of the long-ago Interpreting merit badge. Youth and adults must show knowledge of a foreign language or sign language for the hearing impaired by:

1. Carrying on a five-minute conversation in this language.
2. Translating a two-minute speech or address.
3. Writing a letter in the language (does not apply for sign language).
4. Translating 200 words from the written word.

The Interpreter Strip is worn just above the right pocket flap. Here are the ones available from [ScoutStuff.org](http://ScoutStuff.org):



The newest Interpreter Strip is for Morse code. The code can be used for emergency signaling, by operators of shortwave radios, and for having fun sharing messages with others who know what it means.





Can you read the message on the Morse Interpreter Strip? If so (it's the word MORSE), you're well on your way to mastering the code and earning the right to wear the strip.

## AMERICAN SCOUTS IN FOREIGN LANDS



Many Americans of Scouting age have opportunities to live overseas. Their parents might be assigned to military bases, attached to diplomatic corps, or involved with far-flung businesses. Whatever their reasons for being abroad, the BSA helps them stay involved in Scouting.

Two councils serve U.S. youth in many nations - the TransAtlantic Council, headquartered in Germany, covers much of Europe and touches on Northern Africa. The Far East Council, with offices in Tokyo, serves Japan, Korea, Philippines, Republic of China (Taiwan), Ryukyu Islands, Singapore, and Thailand.



TransAtlantic Council



Far East Council

The 2,500 American Scouts in foreign lands not administered by the two councils can participate through the Direct Service, based at the BSA's national office.



BSA's Direct Service

Scouts in foreign lands have tremendous opportunities for learning and adventure. Some have been highlighted in the BSA's International Newsletter.

When Troop 222 of Penang, Malaysia, practices wilderness survival, for example, they can build shelters out of feather palm and bamboo lashed to banana trees. For meals they might stuff fish and rice seasoned with ginger and garlic into hollow bamboo tubes and steam them over a fire for a delicious feast.



Troop 222 of Penang, Malaysia

Boy Scout Troop 707 from Hong Kong's Discovery Bay visited the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz during its layover in Hong Kong harbor. They were shown around the ship by pilots who had earned Eagle pins during their time in Scouting.



Troop 707 from Discovery Bay, Hong Kong aboard the USS Nimitz

Pack 3910 in Managua, Nicaragua, had the honor of helping dedicate the new U.S. Embassy in Managua by singing patriotic songs.



Pack 3910 in Managua, Nicaragua

## 23rd WORLD JAMBOREE - 2015

More than nine decades since Baden-Powell invited them to London for the first World Jamboree, Scouts representing 161 nations will assemble in the summer of 2015. The site of the 23th World Jamboree will be Kirara-Hama, Yamaguchi, Japan.



The event brings together Boy Scouts, Venturers, leaders, and staff and provides opportunities to raise awareness of global issues, explore the environment, participate in community service, make friends from around the world, and deepen understanding of developments in science and technology.

In the Japanese system of writing called kanji, the character wa - - means harmony, unity, friendship, and peace. It is in this spirit that the Scout Association of Japan will welcome 30,000 Scouts with the motto Wa: A Spirit of Unity.



It's not too early to start dreaming about going to the World Jamboree as a participant or a member of the staff. For important announcements in coming months, check the BSA's World Jamboree website at [scouting.org/worldjamboree](http://scouting.org/worldjamboree). You can find yourself building friendships with young people from all over the globe, all of you wearing the World Scouting Crest.



(This edition of the *Be Prepared Newsletter* was developed and written by Robert Birkby, author of the current editions of the *Boy Scout Handbook*, *Fieldbook* and *Eagle Scouts: A Centennial History*.)