



"Demonstrate Scout Spirit"

It's a requirement—and a way of life!

Troop 422 • Dawsonville, Georgia

Every rank above Tenderfoot includes the following requirement: *"Demonstrate Scout spirit by living the Scout Oath (Promise) and Scout Law in your everyday life."* Troop 422 takes this requirement seriously, and has put this sheet together to give you some guidance.

Living the Scout Oath

"On my honor, I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country, to obey the Scout Law, to help other people at all times, to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight."

We know that none of us are perfect—far from it in fact—but are you doing our best to do your duty to God and country, or cutting corners? Are you living by the standards that God set? Are you practicing good citizenship and fulfilling your duties as citizens?

Living the Scout Law

Can people trust you? Are you loyal, or are you selfish? What about helpful—do you go out of your way to help others, or just when you think they're something in it for you?

To have a friend, be a friend. Do you go out of your way to make friends of new Scouts? Are you courteous at all times—courteous to your parents, courteous to adult leaders, courteous to your fellow Scouts? Courtesy is a habit, as is kindness. Do you have compassion on others and seek out way to do a kindness, a "good turn daily"?

Is your obedience only to those you choose to obey? It's easy to obey those you agree with, but what about those you disagree with? Are you cheerful in the face of annoyances and things that can drag you down, or do you choose instead not to let things get you down? Are you careful with your money and resources?

Bravery means doing the *right* thing, not the easy thing. And are you clean in thought, in words (including jokes) and in the way you live? And most importantly, are you reverent to your Creator? Do you truly "revere" Him, or do you take Him for granted?

Your Actions Are You

A wise man once said, *"It's easier to act your way into right thinking than to think your way into right acting."*

What he means is that you can *think* about doing the right things but never do them—but if you start *doing* the right things, it will change the way you think.

Scouts, the way you act is who you are. It determines how others treat you—and think about you.

The Scout Uniform

The Scout uniform makes everyone equal. No matter how rich or how poor we think we are, we're all equal when we wear our uniform. We're Scouts.

But what would you think if you saw a policeman directing traffic in his patrolman's shirt and blue jeans? Or what would you think if you saw a Marine wearing a dress uniform and a baseball cap?

A complete uniform includes a BSA shirt, BSA pants or shorts (depending on season) and a BSA belt and troop neckerchief and slide. The way you wear your uniform is important to Troop 422 and to you! Don't let us down—it's a key component of Scout Spirit.

Attendance

Your attendance at meetings is not only fun, but it's key to learning new skills— and advancing in rank. People have worked hard to put together a good meeting for you. You need to be there.

Campouts, hikes and other outdoor activities are what attracted most of us to Scouting to begin with. We love the great outdoors and want to see others

love it as much as we do.

But some Scouts think campouts, hikes and service projects are "just for the junior Scouts." Hogwash! Outdoor programs are the best way imaginable for older Scouts to pass on what they've learned to younger Scouts. How else can the new Scouts learn unless the older ones pass on what they've learned?

And isn't Scouting all about service to others?

Your Board of Review

When you have completed your rank requirements you go before a Troop 422 Board of Review. This Board is made up of adult leaders (other than the Scoutmaster) and will test you on *all* aspects of your requirements—first aid, knots, other Scout skills—but will also discuss your Scout spirit with you.

If they feel as a Board that you're deficient in any area (including Scout spirit), you'll be asked to work harder in that area and try again. It's no disgrace to retake a Board of Review. If you need to work a bit harder and try again, go for it. The sooner the better!

So drive on, Scout, and put into practice what you've learned on your Trail to Eagle. *Act* your way into right *thinking*, and Scout spirit will become a part of you that *no one* can take away. Guaranteed!

