

## SIKHS IN SCOUTING

### Why Boy Scouts?

Boy Scouts is for boys aged 11 to 17, or age 10 and graduated from 5th grade. (Boys aged 6 through 5<sup>th</sup> grade have their own program – Cub Scouts.)

When done right, this 100 plus year old program gives Scouts chances for fun and adventure that most people, let alone kids, never experience. Layered in with the fun and challenges are opportunities to serve the community and build leadership, responsibility, and outdoor skills. Scouting prepares boys for the rigors of adulthood, something that colleges, businesses, and even the military have recognized from the very beginning. How?

- Scouts come for the fun: whitewater rafting, camping, hiking, fire building, canoeing, kayaking, backpacking, rock climbing, caving and simply having fun with boys their own age.

- Boy Scouts is meant to be a boy-initiated, boy-planned, boy-run enterprise. From the menus and cooking to the trips plans, Scouts work together to make their own adventure happen. The adult leaders provide guidance (through questioning, helping the Scouts think through what they are trying to accomplish), but the Scouts are ultimately the ones who make the decisions. This is different from sports, student council, marching band, or school or religious clubs; it's a chance for boys to develop real, hands-on leadership and planning experience.

- Scouts work their way through a series of ranks, each with its own varied set of requirements and skills to learn. Good citizenship, first aid, community service, and knots are just a few of these skills. Those that achieve Scouting's highest rank – Eagle Scout – are recognized by colleges, businesses, and government organizations across the nation as being something special.

Nearly 2/3 of astronauts were Scouts, and 39 are Eagle Scouts, including Neil Armstrong. President Kennedy was a Boy Scout, and President Ford was an Eagle Scout. Many of the officers in the US Navy, Army, Marines, and Coast Guard are Eagle Scouts. Filmmaker Stephen Spielberg, Mayor Michael Bloomberg, and businessman Ross Perot are all Eagle Scouts. Walter

Cronkite, Harrison Ford, and Bill Gates all came within one rank of Eagle.



*Karanveer Singh during a 78 mile backpacking trip – Wyoming*



*Canoeing the mighty Delaware River.*



*Spending time outdoors with friends.*

### How do I find a good Boy Scout troop?

- Start by going to [www.beascout.org](http://www.beascout.org) . If your son is age 11 to 17, click on the red Boy Scout tab and enter your zip code. This will display Boy Scout troops in your area. Take advantage of any online resources that the troops may have to learn about each one.

- Boy Scout troops are not geographical; any boy can join almost any troop (a few troops limit membership to only members of a certain school or religious organization, but not many). Your son may join the troop in town or the troop an hour away, but he should join the troop that gives him the best chance at a quality Scouting career.

- Pick out a few troops that look promising. Try to visit at least two troops before deciding to join one.

### How do I know which troop is a good one?

First, visit and ask questions. How often do they camp? Perform a service project? Have meetings? Find a troop that is active, preferably with a trip each month. Troops with active camping schedules are healthier, often have a broader range of activities, and offer your son the best opportunity for a great Scouting experience.

While at the meeting, observe the meeting itself. Who is doing the talking to the Scouts, other Scouts or the adult leaders? The adults taking charge is a sign of an adult-led troop. Adult-led troops can have great programs, but they take away one of the most important aspects of Scouting – leadership development. Scouts cannot learn to lead when the adults are already in front of them taking care of everything.

If you can, talk to the Scouts themselves and ask questions. Are they enthusiastic? How do they feel about the program? Are they having fun? What do they feel they are getting out of Scouting?

**Find the right troop? Talk to the Scoutmaster about signing up!**

## What Scouts can do!

Sherveer Singh has hiked over 350 miles across the Eastern seaboard and done several 50 milers backpacking hikes. A straight A student in 9<sup>th</sup> grade, working on his 3rd Dan in TaeKwonDo, 1<sup>st</sup> Dan in Hapkido, volunteers, fund raises regularly for Breast Cancer, Multiple Sclerosis and other causes. He is one of the youngest Scouts in the nation to be awarded the Eagle Award in Aug 2014 and the Hornaday Badge in Jan 2016.



*Learning to cook while camping.*



Dr. Navinderdeep Singh M.D., an Eagle Scout and currently a plastic surgeon in Ocala, Florida, was one of the 'first responders' at 9-11 and was the first to setup a triage center at ground zero, in front of one of the collapsed towers. He now has children of his own that are continuing the scouting tree as new Cub Scouts.



*Developing new interests.*



*Helping others at the MS 150 Charity Bike Ride*

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## American Sikh Council



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