

**BSA<sup>®</sup> Adopt**  
**-a-school**

**Scouts making a difference in our schools**

## Project Scope

- BSA Adopt-a-School is a process by which we can strengthen relationships between Scouting and the respective schools we serve
- Help Council's units with significant access issues related to promoting and recruiting youth from within specific school systems
- Increase exposure of Scouting to schools and local community
- Increase membership through positive exposure

### **Council Commitment:**

- Commit to engaging Units to take on this project and adopt schools in their respective communities. Councils should target schools where we have areas of poor relationship. Remember, it is not essential that the school desire or initially acknowledge that it is in fact adopted.
- Assign a Staff Advisor or Volunteer to handle/promote BSA Adopt-a-School Program

### **Commissioners for BSA Adopt-a-School**

- Commissioners promote and encourage units to begin adopting schools and submitting their pledges and school commitment forms.
- Commissioners, encourage unit leaders to share projects and success stories units are having on Facebook. Please include videos and pictures.

### **Unit Commitment:**

- Pledge online at [www.bsaadoptaschool.org](http://www.bsaadoptaschool.org)
- Get commitment letter signed from the school principal
- Complete the four projects that the unit committed to
- Post projects completed on Adopt a School micro site and on Facebook page

## Support Materials

- Micro-site
- Brochures
- Facebook Page – “**BSA Adopt-a-School**”
- Survey email blast

## Recognition Materials

- 2011 participation patches
- Project completion patches

What is the time commitment for the unit?

We request a year's commitment, but our hope is to build strong, sustained relationships with these schools.

How much time (weekly or monthly) is the unit expected to give?

Your pledge would be to complete one project per quarter, but if you would like to do more, it would be encouraged and supported.

What commitment is expected from the school?

We expect the school representatives to be cooperative in identifying their needs and in helping to outline the projects that will best satisfy those needs.

What do we expect the Scouts to be doing? Cleaning around the school?

Doing construction projects? Working events?

We expect school representatives and scout leaders to do projects that are age appropriate. Please follow "Guide to Safe Scouting" guidelines.

Who do you expect to make the initial contact?

It might be the unit Scout Leader, Commissioner, or a Scouting professional, but we recommend that your contact person be the person who has the strongest connection to a local school.

Who do we need to speak to first? Principal? Teachers? PTA?

We would encourage you to contact the principal first, then involve teachers and the PTA on an as-needed basis.

In some school districts you may need to get approval from the superintendent first, before making contact with the principal.

Can the unit opt out of the commitment if it's not working for them? Can the school opt out?

Yes, but we hope both parties will do everything possible to honor the one-year pledge.

What if a school is not interested in being adopted?

There are many ways to approach this situation, please contact Adopt-a-School so that we may assist you in building a successful relationship with your school.

How do I deal with unions? Who speaks to them?

Before you officially meet with school officials, we recommend you call them and identify which union representatives might also need to be included in your initial meeting. Then sit down with all concerned to decide the school's needs and how Scouts can be of assistance.

## Ideas for Scouting Units

Here are a few potential project ideas to get us started, but our priority remains to let your school's specific needs determine how we serve.

- Grounds beautification
- Building improvements
- Giving Tree coordinate
- Teacher appreciation
- Helpers during festivals
- Book Drive coordinate
- Clean-up after school events
- Green effort coordinate
- Literacy program
- Food Drive coordinate

## School Pledge Letter

We, \_\_\_\_\_, pledge to adopt \_\_\_\_\_ for a period of one year, beginning \_\_\_\_\_. We will fulfill our commitment by completing a minimum of one volunteer service project per quarter. We look forward to working with the principal and staff to identify the school's needs and establish a plan that will bring meaningful progress.

We are honored to serve in this way, and through sustained volunteer service we hope to contribute to the advancement of this school and to the spirit of community between our Scouts and our adopted school.

After each completed project, our Scouts will receive an Adopt-A-School patch rocker in recognition of their participation and accomplishments.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Council Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
City and State

\_\_\_\_\_  
Scout Leader

\_\_\_\_\_  
# of Scouts in Unit

\_\_\_\_\_  
School Principal

\_\_\_\_\_  
School Name

# Scout Recognition Patches



[www.bsaadoptaschool.org](http://www.bsaadoptaschool.org)



**BSA Adopt-a-School**

