



BSA Family Award

Families are the basis of society. It is in the family that a child learns at an early age about love, values, social interactions, self-esteem, and preparation for today's world. Today's family has been targeted as vital to the future of our nation and our world.

The Boy Scouts of America has a deep interest in the strength of the family. Scouting's aim is to develop boys, young men, and young women into participating citizens of good character who are physically, spiritually, and mentally fit.

Through the Scouting movement, the Boy Scouts Of America can help parents to meet these challenges. The organization recognizes that it is the responsibility of parents to teach their children; however, Scouting is an available resource that can help today's families accomplish worthy goals while building and strengthening relationships among family members.

The BSA Family Book has two major goals: to strengthen families and to encourage family involvement in Scouting. It is written for all parents to use, regardless of their circumstances. The material will help a single father or mother, a two parent family, and grandparents or other adults to teach children in the home.

A weekly "Family Talk" is suggested and provides family members an opportunity to learn and to practice relationship skills that will strengthen individuals as well as the family. Each 'Family Talk' has suggested ideas and activities. The parent should select the ones that meet the specific needs of the family. Family members may wish to create or use some of their own activities to help the children practice a relationship skill.

"Family Talks" can be used in family talk sessions. However, it is hoped that as parents study the material under each topic, they will find ways of using these skills in their daily relationships with family members. Many of the ideas can be used, while riding in the car, during mealtimes, to provide activities for children when there is nothing to do, to initiate discussions in family councils' or as part of other family communications. In other words, family members can creatively adapt the materials and activities to meet their needs and use them to strengthen relationships within their family. Each topic is designed to build family relationships and strengthen your family.

A family may earn the "BSA Family Award." (consisting of: the Award Patch, the Award Pin, and the Award Certificate) The experiences family members share as they complete the requirements for, the family award will enrich family living and strengthen family relationships. The family will complete, within a 12 month period, 10 activities to earn the award from 5 categories. Families who are registered for several years may earn the award more than once. For each 12-month period that the family completes the necessary requirements, the family may qualify to receive the BSA Family Award. Each time the award is earned, the family will receive a BSA Family Award Certificate. The certificate will indicate the 12-month period in which the family completed the requirements.

REQUIREMENTS

The BSA Family Award program includes a series of activities designed to help strengthen all families--whether two-parent, single-parent, or nontraditional. This program was designed to help families accomplish worthy goals while building and strengthening relationships among family members. All family members are encouraged to participate and may earn the award. The BSA *Family Activity Book* (available at the Scout Shop) provides all the requirements as well as step-by-step instructions for earning the BSA Family Award.

To earn the award, a family must complete 10 activities within a 12-month period. The family chooses one activity in two topics in each of the following categories:

1. Learning Through Fun and Adventure

- Enjoying Family Fun
- Knowing It's Make-Believe
- Cultivating Talents
- Being Patriotic

2. Strengthening Family Relationships

- Making Mealtime Meaningful
- Strengthening Family Traditions
- Understanding Siblings
- Showing Love
- Communicating
- Sharing

3. Developing Character

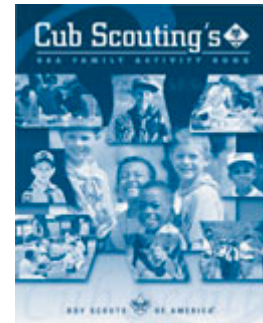
- Learning Duty to God
- Fostering Self-Esteem
- Accepting Success
- Trusting
- Giving
- Accepting Differences

4. Teaching Responsibility

- Developing Responsibility
- Being Prepared
- Planning and Organizing
- Managing Money

5. Handling Difficult Situations

- Overcoming Obstacles
- Adjusting to a Move
- Coping with Long-Term Illness
- Loss of Loved Ones



When a family has completed these requirements, they are eligible to receive an award certificate, patches for uniform wear, and/or pins for non-uniform wear.