



From the Scout Executive

The BSA is a Uniformed Organization

Hello scouts and scouters, I hope everyone is getting ready for an incredible and safe summer of fun and activities. I wanted to share with you my thoughts on the Scout uniform. After witnessing many incredible program and camping events I am noticing that all of our scouts are not in full uniform at the appropriate times.

Since our inception in 1910 we have been and always will be a uniformed organization. Our uniform, like our programs have stood the test of time. I see many of our volunteers and different ages wearing different era uniforms. I think this is great and it celebrates the uniform of that time. Some of you may not know this but when an official uniform is sold it can be worn and be considered current, regardless of the date. In other words, a uniform from 1970 is still considered current.

I grew up in a troop where the partial uniform was not allowed to be worn, the official scout shirt should and needs to be worn with the official pants/shorts. The current Scoutmaster of my home troop explains to his scouts the following "Would a policeman or a fireman only wear their shirt while on duty, would a football player or a basketball player only wear their jersey? The answer is no, so why should we?"

In my experience over the years I find that a fully uniformed scout will advance farther and stay in the program longer, thus realizing their full potential in Scouting. If you look at the larger packs and troops you will note that the majority of the youth are in full uniform during meetings, awards ceremonies and public events.

I hope and trust each of you will be in full uniform when the fall starts. I also realize that families may not be able to afford both the shirt and the pants. That is one of the reasons we sell popcorn and peanuts and units do their own fundraisers as well. Please look for upcoming promotions specifically for the BSA uniform, we will have great sales and promotions starting very soon. As you start planning the 2018-2019 season please make sure the full uniform is in your plan.

Thank you everyone and I look forward to seeing all of you at camp!

Jim Battaglia
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