



The hope at the heart of the BSA Adopt-a-School program is to build strong, sustaining relationships with your local schools, creating thousands of lasting community partnerships across the U.S. Through committed volunteer efforts — from school cleanup and landscaping to Scouts' active participation in school events throughout the year — the BSA® will become a defined presence in improving our nation's schools.



The BSA® Adopt-a-School program is an exciting and comprehensive undertaking that will connect Scout packs, troops, and crews across the country with schools in their communities. Participating Scouts then work, within clearly defined guidelines, to partner with school administrations and offer the volunteer services that most effectively meet their school's needs. With each unit offering their school a minimum one-year commitment, meaningful community relationships are built and significant changes will happen in the schools. Units may use their service hours to count toward Journey to Excellence progress.

This program will provide a lasting bond between individual Scouts and their immediate community, between Scouting and the community as a whole, and among the Scouts themselves. When Scouts provide service to a school they feel connected to, they're able to bond Scout pride with school pride, thereby strengthening the commitment to both.

This project establishes loyalty by building upon itself. At the end of the first year, when the Scouts have completed the required project, they gain a true sense of membership and accomplishment, which always enhances retention.

Volunteer Ideas

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

- Grounds beautification
- Building improvements
- Giving tree coordination
- Teacher appreciation
- Helpers during festivals
- Book drive coordination
- Cleaning up after school events
- Green effort coordination
- Literacy program
- Food drive coordination

Frequently Asked Questions

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 is the unit expected to give?

Your pledge would be to complete one project per year, but if you would like to do more, that 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?

Please refer to the [Volunteer Ideas](#) page.

Who do you expect to make the initial contact?

It might be a commissioner, a district executive, or a Scout leader, 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.

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.

Is this expected to be implemented district- or council-wide? Will it be mandatory that my council be involved?

Service in this program is completely voluntary.

Is there a patch?

Yes, see image to the right for a preview of the patch.

This is a single patch (with no add on mini-patches as in the past).



Website: <http://adoptaschool.scouting.org/>

You must Register your unit at: <http://adoptaschool.scouting.org/> then click on register button on upper right.

REGISTRATION >

For more information in the Meridian District, contact M'Lu Knaus at knaushouse@astound.net