

# Your First Rank—Bobcat!



If you haven't earned your Bobcat badge yet, this is where you start. When you've earned your Bobcat, you'll know the signs, symbols, and big ideas of Scouting. And when you know those, you're a Scout!



If you haven't already earned your Bobcat badge, you will need to start your Cub Scouting adventures by learning what it takes to become a Bobcat! Read through the Bobcat requirements and practice several times what you have learned. When you think that you are ready, share what you've learned with your family, your den leader, and with your den at a pack meeting. Then give yourself a pat on the back and congratulate yourself on earning your Bobcat badge!

## BOBCAT REQUIREMENTS

1. Learn and say the Scout Oath, with help if needed.
2. Learn and say the Scout Law, with help if needed.
3. Show the Cub Scout sign. Tell what it means.
4. Show the Cub Scout handshake. Tell what it means.
5. Say the Cub Scout motto. Tell what it means.
6. Show the Cub Scout salute. Tell what it means.
7. With your parent or guardian, complete the exercises in the pamphlet *How to Protect Your Children From Child Abuse: A Parent's Guide*.

## 1 | Learn and say the Scout Oath, with help if needed.

One of the most important parts of earning Bobcat is understanding that all members of the Boy Scouts of America believe in, live by, and often repeat the Scout Oath and the Scout Law. We learn those words and believe in them as a way to live our lives and be good members of our families, our communities, and the Boy Scouts of America!

### The Meaning of the Scout Oath

*On My Honor I Will Do My Best*

Saying “On my honor” is like saying “I promise.” It means that you will do your best to do what the Scout Oath says.

#### **Scout Oath**

On my honor I will do my best  
To do my duty to God and my country  
and to obey the Scout Law;  
To help other people at all times;  
To keep myself physically strong,  
mentally awake, and morally straight.

### Three Promises

The Scout Oath has three promises. Let’s look at what they mean.

*To Do My Duty to God And My Country and to Obey the Scout Law*

A duty is something you are expected to do. At home, you might be expected to make up your bed or take out the trash. You also have duties to God and to your country. You do your duty to God by following the teachings of your family and religious leaders. You do your duty to your country by being a good citizen and obeying the law. You also promise to live by the 12 points of the Scout Law, which are described below.

*To Help Other People at All Times*

Many people need help. A friendly smile and a helping hand make life easier for others. By helping other people, you are doing a Good Turn and making our world a better place.

*To Keep Myself Physically Strong, Mentally Awake, and Morally Straight*

The last part of the Scout Oath is about taking care of yourself. You stay physically strong when you eat the right foods and get plenty of exercise. You stay mentally awake when you work hard in school, learn all you can, and ask questions. You stay morally straight when you do the right thing and live your life with honesty.

## 2 | Learn and say the Scout Law, with help if needed.

A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent.

### The Meaning of the Scout Law

The Scout Law has 12 points. Each is a goal for every Scout. He does his best to live up to the Law every day. It is not always easy to do,

TRUSTWORTHY.	A Scout tells the truth and keeps his promises. People can depend on him.
LOYAL.	A Scout is true to his family, friends, Scout leaders, school, and country.
HELPFUL.	A Scout volunteers to help others without expecting a reward.
FRIENDLY.	A Scout is a friend to everyone, even people who are very different from him.
COURTEOUS.	A Scout is polite to everyone and always uses good manners.
KIND.	A Scout treats others as he wants to be treated. He never harms or kills any living thing without good reason.
OBEDIENT.	A Scout follows the rules of his family, school, and pack. He obeys the laws of his community and country.
CHEERFUL.	A Scout looks for the bright side of life. He cheerfully does tasks that come his way. He tries to make others happy.
THRIFTY.	A Scout works to pay his way. He uses time, property, and natural resources wisely.
BRAVE.	A Scout can face danger even if he is afraid. He stands for what is right even if others laugh at him.
CLEAN.	A Scout keeps his body and mind fit. He helps keep his home and community clean.
REVERENT.	A Scout is reverent toward God. He is faithful in his religious duties. He respects the beliefs of others.

### 3 | Show the Cub Scout sign. Tell what it means.

Make the sign with your right hand. Hold your arm straight up. The two raised fingers stand for the Scout Oath and the Scout Law. The fingers look like the sharp ears of the wolf ready to listen to Akela! Remember that Akela (say Ah-KAY-la) means “good leader” to a Cub Scout. Your mother or father or guardian is Akela. So is your Cubmaster or your den leader. At school, your teacher is Akela.



### 4 | Show the Cub Scout handshake. Tell what it means.



When you shake hands with another Cub Scout, do this: Hold out your right hand just as you always do to shake hands. But then put your first two fingers along the inside of the other boy's wrist. This means that you help each other to remember and obey the Scout Oath.

### 5 | Say the Cub Scout motto. Tell what it means.

***The Cub Scout motto is “Do Your Best.”***

A motto is a guiding principle and a rule for living. Do Your Best means trying your hardest, not just a little bit. Do your best all the time. Do your best in school and at home. Do your best when you play a game and help your team. Do your best as you work on your rank adventures!

## 6 | Show the Cub Scout salute. Tell what it means.

Salute with your right hand. Hold your first two fingers close together. Touch your fingertips to your cap. If you aren't wearing a cap, touch your right eyebrow. You salute the flag to show respect to our country. Always use the Cub Scout salute when you are in your Cub Scout uniform, both indoors and outdoors. If you are not in uniform, you salute the flag by placing your right hand over your heart.



## 7 | With your parent or guardian, complete the exercises in the pamphlet *How to Protect Your Children from Child Abuse: A Parent's Guide*.

If you don't have this in your handbook, it can be downloaded from:

[http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/100-015\(15\)\\_WEB.pdf](http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/100-015(15)_WEB.pdf)