

# THE SCOUT UNIFORM - QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Let's face it – the Scouting uniform can be quite intimidating, especially for those who are new to the Scouting program.

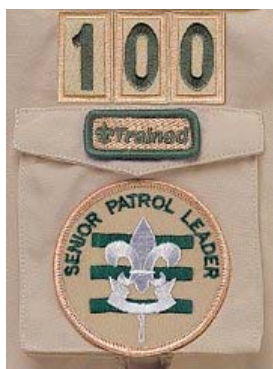
Here is some information you might find to be helpful in making sure you are in a proper Scout uniform.

## The Colors of Scouting: Unit Numbers

Red numbers, tan numbers – what's a Scout to do?



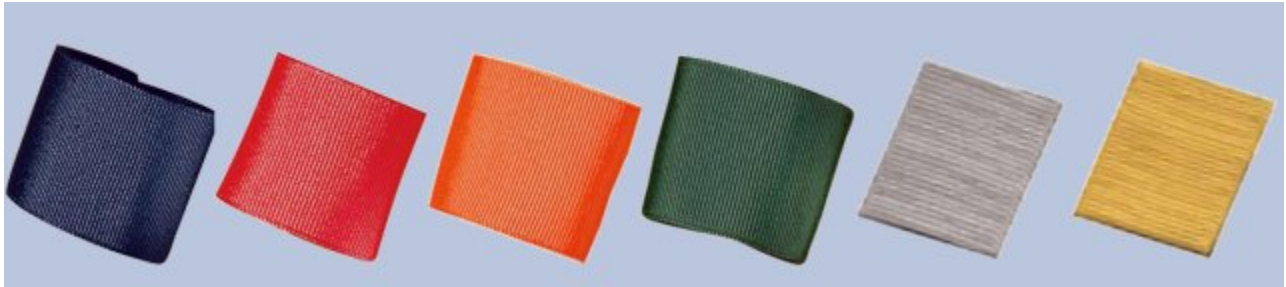
**Red Unit Numbers** are worn by Cub Scouts (on the blue uniform), female Cub Scout Leaders who wear the yellow Cub Scout uniform shirt, Venturing Crew members, and Boy Scouts who are wearing the “old” tan uniform (the one with buttons on the pockets – not Velcro).



**Tan Unit Numbers** are worn by Boy Scouts and Cub Scout/Boy Scout Leaders – who are wearing the “new” tan uniform (the one with Velcro on the pockets – and a pocket on the left arm).

## **The Colors of Scouting: Shoulder Loops**

First of all, the loops of colored fabric are “shoulder loops” and not “epaulets.” A lot of Scouts and Scouters make that mistake. The epaulet is the piece of fabric (with a button attached to one end) that holds the shoulder loops. But, what color to wear???



**Blue Shoulder Loops:** Worn by Cub Scout Leaders (tan uniform) and Webelos Scouts (tan uniform). There are no epaulets on the blue Cub Scout uniform, so Cub Scouts do not wear shoulder loops.

**Red Shoulder Loops:** Worn by Boy Scouts and Scouters who wear the old tan uniform (it has buttons on the pockets – not Velcro)

**Forest Green Shoulder Loops (not shown above):** Worn by Boy Scouts and Scouters who wear the new “Centennial” tan uniform (it has Velcro on the pockets – not buttons – and it has a pocket on the left arm)

**Orange Shoulder Loops:** Worn by Varsity Scouts

**Green Shoulder Loops:** Worn by Venture Crew members

**Silver Shoulder Loops:** Worn by District and Council staff members – volunteer and paid

**Gold Shoulder Loops:** Worn by Regional and National Council staff members – volunteer and paid

## **The Trained Patch**

Leaders and Boy Scouts who hold a leadership position in the Troop wear a “Trained” patch when they have completed all of the training that is required for their position.

The red Trained patch is worn **under the badge of office** on the old uniforms (buttons – not Velcro) - the green Trained patch is worn **on the pocket flap above the badge of office** on the new uniforms (Velcro – not buttons).



## New - Field Uniform v. Activity Uniform

From time-to-time, you might hear leaders refer to “Class A” or “Class B” Scout uniforms. The terms “Class A” and “Class B” refer to military uniform standards that have, over time, crept into the informal communication of the Scouting organization. Neither term is recognized by the Boy Scouts of America (BSA).

To separate Scouting from the military (there is no connection whatsoever), BSA uses the terms “Field Uniform” and “Activity Uniform” instead.

The **BSA Field Uniform** is the “dress uniform” for Scouting, and it consists of:

- Official uniform shirt
- Neckerchief (issued by the Troop) and slide
- Red or Green shoulder loops (depending upon the version of your Scout uniform shirt)
- Troop cap (issued by the Troop)
- Scout belt
  - Some Switchback pants have a web belt built in. The Scout has the option of wearing a Scout belt over the web belt – or wearing just the web belt that is sewn into the pants.
  - The Scout belt can be the official web belt, an official BSA leather belt with a BSA belt buckle, a Camp Horseshoe belt, a high adventure belt/buckle, or any other approved Scouting belt
- Official BSA green pants
- Scout socks



We wear the BSA field uniform to Troop Meetings, Courts of Honor, and other Scouting events – and when traveling to/from outings - unless otherwise directed by your leader.

The **BSA Activity Uniform** consists of:

- Troop 883 t-shirt (issued by the Troop)
  - In some situations, like summer camp, out Scouting t-shirts can be substituted for the Troop 883 t-shirt
- Troop cap
- Scout belt
  - Some Switchback pants have a web belt built in. The Scout has the option of wearing a Scout belt over the web belt – or wearing just the web belt that is sewn into the pants.
  - The Scout belt can be the official web belt, an official BSA leather belt with a BSA belt buckle, a Camp Horseshoe belt, a high adventure belt/buckle, or any other approved Scouting belt
- Official BSA green pants



This is NOT an activity uniform!