

INTERNET SCOUTING

BSA UNIFORMS
SEE ALSO - INSIGNIA

Date: Wed, 24 May 1995 22:58:10 -0400 (EDT)
From: "Michael F. Bowman" <mfbowman@capaccess.org>
Subject: Re: Uniforming

Brent,

Next time you talk to National and they give you the line that a choice between straight sides and cargo pockets would cause a problem with a uniform being uniform, ask them to go visit any military base. I don't know of a branch of service that doesn't have half a dozen uniforms. Why? The services figured out that different uniforms are needed for different purposes. Similarly, I think we could broaden our minds to see two different styles of pants, socks, etc. as within reason. What's the difference when half the Scouts wear long pants and half wear shorts to meeting anyway - that is, if you can get them to wear a uniform period. If it will help get a few more Scouts to wear the uniform, I'm all for a bit of variety.

**Speaking only for myself in the Scouting Spirit, Michael F. Bowman
Prof. Beaver, Nat. Capital Area Council, BSA mfbowman@CAPACCESS.ORG**

Date: Sat, 27 May 1995 22:28:28 -0400 (EDT)
From: "Michael F. Bowman" <mfbowman@capaccess.org>
Subject: Re: Uniforming

On Fri, 26 May 1995, (Larry Gaian) wrote

>

> I want the old pants back also. I've written them twice.

I don't know where your pants ran off to and why they won't write back - you must be a typical Scouter that has abused them by camping in all kinds of rough weather. :-)

> If the pants were cheaper I'd stock up, but as I get older, I find that
> the sizes start to run a little small.

>

DITTO! BSA, it appears hates to recognize that many volunteers are a little more robust in size as they age. You can order direct from the BSA Supply Service, if your Scout Shop, like ours, is always short on stout sizes.

Speaking only for myself in the Scouting Spirit, Michael F. Bowman
Prof. Beaver, Nat. Capital Area Council, BSA mfbowman@CAPACCESS.ORG

Date: Tue, 11 Jul 1995 04:59:18 -0400 (EDT)
From: "Michael F. Bowman" <mfbowman@CapAccess.org>
To: SCOUTS-L Youth Groups Discussion List <SCOUTS-L@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU>
Subject: Troop Policies, Merit Badges, Uniforms

Ralph Johnson,

Glad to have you participating in the endless roundtable that is Scouts-L. In your posting you wrote:

> At our summer scout camp this last week, we had a father/committee member
> acting as one of the leaders. In the course of the week it became obvious
> that he was going to buck the current adult leadership and will be fighting
> in upcoming committee meetings to modify the current troop policies and
> practices. He does not believe that the uniform is important and favors a

> very loose interpretation of BSA policies. He has begun questioning each
> decision and policy of the leaders and wants "PROOF" that it has to be as
we
> say.

This is not all bad, though it can be a pain. At least he is interested in his son's Troop and it's never a bad practice to evaluate how you are doing and whether you are doing things the best way. His attitude may leave a bit to be desired, but it may be that he is struggling with understanding Scouting and trying to apply his own ideas. Some suggestions:

1. Encourage him to sit through a Fast Start training session to get an overview of the program.
2. Encourage him to join one of the leaders in going to a roundtable where he can see how things really are with other Troops in the area.
3. Take the time to help him understand the whole program and why Scouting uses the methods it does including uniforming.
4. Encourage him to raise his concerns and ideas in the committee meetings - this is the right place.
5. Encourage the Committee Chair to have a private discussion with him to remind him that on outings, the SM and ASMs are the adult leaders in charge and that it is damaging to leadership to second guess them all of the time in front of the Scouts, something that the committee can't tolerate; e.g., he will be asked to leave if he can't behave himself.
6. Invite him to go with you to your local Scout Shop and show him the available literature that he can buy with answers to hundreds of questions - suggest that he buy A Thousand Campfires, Sign's Up, and Woods Wisdom first. <g> Yea two of these are not program guides, but if he reads them first, he'll get a better perspective on Scouting and maybe take a few hints from the authors. May be worth the investment to get them and share them with him.
7. Help him to understand the patrol method and the role of the PLC. This is very important to understanding the requirements for Camping.
8. If this fellow was just associated with a Cub Scout unit, it time

someone explained that unlike Wolf and Bear, parents do not decide whether the Scout has completed a requirement and that the PLC not "Den Leader/ASMs" run the Troop.

- > We feel that only BSA events should be counted towards the merit badge requirements. We have so far refused to credit his boy with school and/or
- > church camping/hiking events for the merit badge work. Our troop provides
- > opportunities for over 30 nights camping per year and several hundred miles
- > hiking per year so there is no lack of opportunities within the troop. Do we
- > have the right to restrict credit to BSA events? If so, where can we find it
- > in writing?

1. Time for reevaluation here. From page 10 of the 1993-95 Boy Scouts Requirements (lists all of the requirements for ranks and merit badges):

"You are expected to meet all of the requirements as they are stated -- no more and no less."

2. Read the requirements for Hiking Merit Badge again. There is no requirement that any of the hikes be part of a Troop, District or Council activity. And the Scouts should not be subjected to a local Troop policy that is more restrictive. However, you should be aware that in meetings with the Merit Badge counselor, Youth Protection rules require that at least two Scouts be present - no one-on-one meetings.

3. Regarding the requirements for Camping Merit Badge: Many of the requirements for this Merit Badge relate to patrol activities and must be completed with the patrol. The requirement for twenty days and nights of camping does not state that all of them must be with the Troop or Patrol. Whether the Scout's "camping" outside Scouting counts towards the requirement is up to the Merit Badge Counselor. Some parents have wanted to have nights spent camping in a family tent/trailer, trailer or cabin count. The requirement is for the Scout to spend those nights under the stars or under a tent he has pitched. The counselor can judge whether he pitched the tent or not.

- > Likewise, this father insists that the troop can not insist on full uniforms,

> including approved head gear, BSA belts, BSA shorts or trousers, and BSA crew

> socks. He points out that many other Troops only require the BSA shirt.

How

> do we combat this and prove to the questioner that the Troop has the right to

> insist on full proper uniforming? By the way, there is no question on

> economics involved. The family could afford uniform costs and the troop

> maintains an inventory of uniform parts free for the asking. We provide the

> head gear, scarf and slide to all incoming scouts.

Of course this father is free to move his son to one of these Troops, but did not. Why? Is it because of the better program in a unit that has more spirit and coincidentally better uniforming?

BSA does not require, but strongly encourages uniforming. If you look at the Rules and Regulations of BSA 1993, you will find that BSA authorizes the use of insignia and uniforms for Scouting purposes. BSA's encouragement is evident in all of the handbooks and training materials. Take this from BSA's Troop Committee Guidebook:

"The uniform makes the Scout troop visible as a force for good and creates a positive youth image in the community. Wearing the uniform is an action that shows each Scout's commitment to the aims and purposes of Scouting. The uniform gives the Scout identity in a world brotherhood of youth who believe in the same ideals." Other training materials that I have seen make the point that uniforming can:

1. Act as a social leveler - everyone wears the same outfit with distinction based on family means (yes I know that in many areas this is difficult when the uniform can run upwards of \$100, but this can be addressed by uniform recycling, fundraisers, etc.)

2. Encourage a sense of pride in belonging resulting in better group behavior.

3. Act as means to display recognition and motivate achievement.

That said, remember that B-P's first Scouts, especially those in the inner-city of London didn't always have uniforms or complete ones. The uniform is a method or tool of Scouting.

Does your committee have the right to set rules on uniforms? The BSA literature I have (and that's plenty) is silent on the question. What is clear, however, is that Chartered Organization is charged with carrying out the Scouting program and that the unit committee can establish the necessary by-laws or unit rules to carry out the program, whether the rules pertain to finances, uniforms, etc. The only restraint is that the rules must comply with the By-laws, Rules and Regulations of BSA - See BSA

Rules and Regulations at Article VI, Section 3, Clause 1.

To the extent that your committee establishes unit operating rules that further Scouting aims and methods, I see nothing wrong with them per se. This would include a rule on uniforms. I've seen many units with similar rules and varying degrees of success in its execution. I've also seen units that get carried away with rule-making to the extent that it starts to detract. The key is to continually self-evaluate whether the rule is necessary and whether it contributes to the purposes of Scouting. You will find some rules work and some, though initiated with good intent serve to limit or harm the unit's ability to provide the best program.

Personally, I think uniforming helps and has a lot to offer. It seems like this may be an area where education is warranted.

One final thought - as you and your committee are challenged and self-evaluate, don't hesitate to call on the help of your unit commissioner or District Commissioner - they can be a wealth of ideas, information and help.

**Speaking only for myself in the Scouting Spirit, Michael F. Bowman
DDC-Training, GW Dist. Nat Capital Area Council
mfbowman@CAPACCESS.ORG**

**Date: Mon, 17 Jul 1995 21:43:39 -0700
From: Walter Gould <w4crypto@IX.NETCOM.COM>
Subject: Founder's View of Uniforms**

"THE SCOUT UNIFORM

I have often said, "I don't care a fig whether a Scout wears a uniform or not so long as his heart is in his work and he carries out the Scout Law." But the fact is that there is hardly a Scout who does not wear uniform if he can afford to buy it.

The spirit prompts him to it.

The same rule applies naturally to those who carry on the Scout Movement the Scoutmasters and Commissioners; there is no obligation on them to wear uniform if they don't like it. At the same time, they have in their positions to think of others rather than of themselves.

Personally, I put on uniform, even if I have only a Patrol to inspect, because I am certain that it raises the moral tone of the boys. It heightens their estimation of their uniform when they see it is not beneath a grown man to wear it; it heightens their estimation of themselves when they find themselves taken seriously by men who also count it of importance to be in the same brotherhood with them.

Smartness in uniform and correctness in detail may seem a small matter, but has, its value in the development of self-respect, and means an immense deal to the reputation of the Movement among outsiders who judge by what they see.

It is largely a matter of example. Show me a slackly-dressed Troop and I can "Sherlock" a slackly-dressed Scoutmaster. Think of it, when you are fitting on your uniform or putting that final saucy cock to your hat.

You are the model to your boys and your smartness will reflect itself in them."

Quoted from:

AIDS TO SCOUTMASTERSHIP

**A Guidebook For Scoutmasters
On The Theory of Scout Training**

By

**LORD BADEN-POWELL OF GILWELL
Founder of the Boy Scout Movement
(thanks to Andrew J. Heath, HEATHA@yvax.byu.edu for the original document)**

Date: Sat, 15 Jul 1995 03:01:39 -0400 (EDT)
From: "Michael F. Bowman" <mfbowman@CapAccess.org>
To: SCOUTS-L Youth Groups Discussion List <SCOUTS-L@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU>
Subject: Uniforming - Who Makes The Rules - BDUs

This is another of those long posts - much to say about uniforming starting with rule-making, moving on to encouraging uniforming and finishing with a word on military uniform parts.

Uniforming is a method of Scouting - a tool that can be used to promote the aims of the program, but one that can also be abused. It is for this reason that BSA from the beginning acted to protect its insignia and to set the standards for what uniforming is authorized. BSA authorizes uniforms and insignia, encourages their use to further the program, and is taking a hard look at how to promote more use of the uniform as Mike Walton has indicated.

At the unit level, the unit committee is charged with setting the unit's policies and rules, not the Cubmaster or Scoutmaster. It is up to the Committee to determine whether the unit has an "all uniforms" rule. You should note that the Scoutmaster's Handbook and the Troop Committee Guidebook both explain that uniforming is one of the eight methods of Boy Scouting without setting any minimum standard for uniforming. The Scoutmaster's Handbook does offer Scoutmasters the advice that the best way to promote uniforming is to set the example and wear his/her own uniform.

Why is this? Why isn't there a National rule requiring uniform wear? I won't pretend to know all the considerations that have gone into the careful wording in these publications, but I can suggest that at least part of the reason is that uniforming is just what it is advertise to be - a method of Scouting, not a prerequisite or objective in and of itself.

We certainly want to encourage proper and complete uniforming because it can and does help further the aims of Scouting - Character Development, Citizenship Training, and Personal Fitness. It also works as a great to recognize accomplishments through the display of badges.

Committees grappling with this issue should be careful to see uniforming in perspective and be careful that by rule-making they are not creating a

situation that would push Scouts out that don't have all of the uniform parts due to finances. It would be much better to start out by creating a uniform bank and a policy on fundraising that allowed a certain amount to be put into a Scout's account for uniform/equipment purchases, before making the rule. Although I see nothing wrong with a committee rule that requires uniforming, I would also encourage the committee to continually self-evaluate whether the rule is necessary and whether it contributes to the purposes of Scouting. You will find some rules work and some, though initiated with good intent serve to limit or harm the unit's ability to provide the best program.

Now if the committee hasn't acted, can the Scoutmaster establish a rule for the Troop that uniforms are required? The Scoutmaster can try to establish a rule, but that really is the job of the Troop Committee. His/her job is to execute the program and to use the methods of Scouting to achieve the aims of Scouting. He/she is much better off in this situation to motivate, persuade and encourage uniforming.

Recognition of good uniforming examples by words of encouragement works wonders.

Some SMs have worked up leadership contracts with each newly elected SPL, ASPL, QM, Scribe, etc. that include wearing correct uniforms and encouraging uniforming in the Troop.

Some SMs have found that the PLC is good at finding ways of encouraging uniforming as well (note the PLC does not make the rule, it encourages).

Some Troops use recognition beads for attending events, uniforming, advancement, etc. This also helps.

What kind of uniforming are we promoting? The best possible uniforming and as complete as possible.

What about military uniforms such as BDUs?

BSA's Insignia Guide states that "Imitation of United States Army, Navy or Marine Corps uniforms is prohibited, in accordance with the provisions of the Organization's Congressional Charter." (This was before the Air Force was created). It seems that the wearing of military uniform parts in imitation of military uniforms is not allowed from this rule. No

doubt a few will argue and belabor the point, so here are a few things to consider:

* BSA is not a para-military organization and wearing military uniform parts certainly can give the impression to the community of a connection that is not there.

* Many of our prospective Scouts belong to families that have left countries where a military style uniform is a symbol of oppression and the cause of fear. Our District was fortunate to have a presentation by Luis Gallegos, BSA's National Director for Hispanic Scouting Emphasis, on how to reach Hispanic youth. One of the barriers that he discussed was the fear of uniforms because of oppression in their country of origin by the military and/or police. He also discussed the need to help parents of these youth understand that Scouts are not part of the military, police, etc. By wearing uniform parts from the military your unit runs the risk of telling these prospective members or their families that Scouting is not for them. And these are youth that could really benefit from the program. Do we want them instead finding a home in a street gang for want of a better choice?

* What would you think of a soccer team all wearing little league striped pants, etc with football jerseys, bowling shoes, and top hats? Somehow I think they'd be laughed off the field and that few coaches would allow them on the field anyway. Face it the uniform there or here is about belonging, not about setting oneself apart. From an outsider's perspective does wearing military pants look any different?

* Many of you are aware that early Scout uniforms started out looking a lot like military uniforms and that BP's book, Scouting for Boys, was an adaptation of his earlier book, Scouting (for soldiers). Likewise the Cub Scout uniform is still reminiscent of a blue cavalry uniform complete with yellow scarf (neckerchief). Boys through the years have enjoyed imagining themselves to be like military heroes on TV or in the movies, as with the pirates that we discussed earlier. And no doubt uniforming has stimulated some imagination in this direction as with the case of pirate, knight, and other theme costumes. So why the fuss with military pants, jackets, etc.? I think it comes down to helping the Scouts remember that they are in Scouting and not a para-military organization, not letting imagination run wild by encouragement, and limiting the use of uniforming to its purpose as a method to achieve Scouting aims.

*** This leads to the question of what Scouting aims are served by wearing military uniform parts. By wearing different uniform parts the Scouts in such a unit are setting themselves apart as different, instead of learning how much they are a part of a larger association of Scouts. Seems counterproductive to me.**

In any case BSA is pretty clear that military uniform parts are not to be worn. Encourage proper and complete uniforming by taking the first step - setting the example. Nudge others along. Persuade. Motivate.

**Speaking only for myself in the Scouting Spirit, Michael F. Bowman
DDC-Training, GW Dist. Nat Capital Area Council
mfbowman@CAPACCESS.ORG**

**Date: Sun, 23 Jul 1995 00:39:24 -0400 (EDT)
From: "Michael F. Bowman" <mfbowman@CapAccess.org>
To: SCOUTS-L Youth Groups Discussion List <SCOUTS-L@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU>
Subject: Re: Uniforming and Roundtable Staff**

Lee,

Ho,ho,haw,tee :-)) I'm about to bust laughing thinking of how this lady must look with about 25 hat pins arranged all about her uniform. Oh my, but you do have a difficult spot. I suspect from your message that you've talked to her, that she is otherwise a wonderful commissioner and that she thinks she has good reason to display all this pins.

Well you do have some options:

Talk with your Council Commissioner (you did say Council Cub Roundtable) and ask him/her to have a word with the person about uniforming - why we do it, why it is important to set the example, etc. See if that helps.

Next step is to ask the Council Commissioner to assist you in the uniforming skit where you are dressed as a over-enthusiastic badge wearer.

Have him/her explain uniforming and then ask for audience help on what's wrong. Once this is done, but before the show starts, gently explain what is going to happen - no surprises. Chances are that she won't want

to have to explain to the whole group why she has a different set of uniforming rules. Better chance if the group later points out the problems, that she won't want to continue the practice.

Conduct the uniforming session with yourself as the butt of comments and humor.

Hopefully somewhere along the line she will get the message and won't want to embarrass herself further.

Of course this requires some gentle discussion, we don't want to run somebody off over this - keep perspective.

Hope this is of help to you.

Speaking only for myself in the Scouting Spirit, Michael F. Bowman
DDC-Training, GW Dist. Nat Capital Area Council
mfbowman@CAPACCESS.ORG

Date: Tue, 15 Aug 1995 00:15:54 -0400 (EDT)
From: "Michael F. Bowman" <mfbowman@CapAccess.org>
To: Bob Haar <rhaar@albert.cs.gmr.com>
Subject: Re: Scout Uniform

Bob,

NCAC in 1994 went to a commemorative series with a different patch for each year through 2000. 1994 features the Capital and already is not available. This year's patch is one that features fireworks over the Capital Mall and really is one of the best. The standard issue has changed slightly since 10 years ago with better color in the cherry blossom trees around the Jefferson Memorial. I can get you the current standard and the 1995 special issue to trade across for the two from your area. Let me know when you've had a chance to stop by the trading post. :-)

Speaking only for myself in the Scouting Spirit, Michael F. Bowman
DDC-Training, GW Dist. Nat Capital Area Council
mfbowman@CAPACCESS.ORG

Date: Sat, 2 Dec 1995 16:54:45 EST
From: Peter Farnham <pfarnham@ASBMB.FASEB.ORG>

Subject: Re[2]: Uniforming

To: Multiple recipients of list SCOUTS-L <SCOUTS-L@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU>

Hi Mike and all,

My favorite story is as follows. I went out grocery shopping one night a year or so ago in mostly civvies, but I had my red scouter's jacket on with the OA patch on the back.

I got out of my car in the shopping center parking lot, and a young man, probably 20-something, and his girl friend got out of the car in front of me. The young man saw my scouter's jacket and said, "Are you a scouter?"

I said, "I sure am."

He beamed and stood up a little straighter. "I'm Bill Jones" (I don't remember his real name), "First Class Scout." He then offered me a scout handshake. I was delighted to have the chance to talk about scouts, and so we talked for a couple of minutes. I also told him that he should find a troop and get involved, as young boys needed obviously responsible men as role models.

I remember this incident very fondly, as the young man was so proud of having been a "First Class Scout." In general, I can't tell you the number of times I've had that red jacket on and have gotten comments about scouting.

YiS,

**Pete Farnham
SM, Troop 113
GW District, NCAC
Alexandria, Va
pfarnham@capaccess.org**

Date: Fri, 1 Dec 1995 19:25:46 -0500

From: Mike Murray <Mike2M@AOL.COM>

Subject: Re: Uniforming

Lets try a different twist what is the best story you can tell about

something that happened or was said to you due to wearing a scout Uniform?

I'll throw in a Bridges Of Madison County Mid-Iowa CSP for the winner.

My best is one night returning from a SMF training in full uniform including "smokey hat". I came upon a stalled car. I approached the people in the dark. The gentleman responded to my question of "do you need some help" by turning around and slowly shining a flashlight at me. He looked at me sheepishly to which I replied that as a Boy Scout it was my "job" to help those in need. I took them to the nearest town about 15 miles and we had a nice conversation about why Scouting has survived. There son is only 4 but I bet when Cub age comes around that "stranger" they met may influence their decision.

Mike Murray

Date: Mon, 4 Dec 1995 12:06:49 -0500
From: Internet-Go Ahead <goahead@EF.COM>
Subject: Uniform story

Hi all,

Just returned from my Honeymoon and was getting caught up. Thanks for all of you who sent there best wishes to me and my new wife. Yes she does know what she is getting into with all my time in Scouting. (she got the one hour speech and is now or finance chair, ha ha ha, I think she likes it more than me.)

my story

I had just come from my fourth scout mtg. of the week and was in full uniform, right down to the socks that don't match after you wash them and the shorts with the pockets that come off very easily. I went into Mcdonalds to get something to eat and stood in line. these two punks came in behind me and

started to snicker and give me a hard time about being a Boy Scout. I tried to ignore them but this just egged them on further because I wouldn't acknowledge their comments until one of them shoved me. At this point I turned around and said to them " I think you two boys should grow up and find some one else to annoy." They responded by saying "Oh what are you going to do Tie us up?" I was very angry by then and said "No, but you will regret it." That is when one of them shoved me again saying "Come on, Let's go." At this point I lost control, having been the Army I knew how to take care of my self and quickly laid one of them on the floor unconcious. The Mgr. of the restaraunt came accross the counter with a baseball bat an told them to leave and that he had called the police. the one that was still standing picked up his friend and carried him out to the car. I thanked the Mgr. and he said."I couldn't just stand by and watch,he put out his hand and intoduced himself saying, Roberto Martinez, Eagle Scout and Brotherhood member shaking my hand with his left. AT this point the Police pulled up and came in. The Mgr. related the story to him and he went out to the car where the two were still waiting for me to leave. he talked to them and then he left but only pulled around the corner. I ate and left. as I was walking out the two approached me again in the parking lot looking to even the score. Again I defended myself and was just about to protect my self when the police came around the corner. The officer got out of the car and arrested the two trouble makers. The protested saying that I had started again with them, the officer responded with "Who am I going to beleive, you two punks or the guy in the Scout Uniform?" with that he put them in the car and they spent the night in jail for disorderly conduct. A week later I was summonsed to court for assault and battery on the one that

attacked me. I went to court where the police officer was waiting for me. He said not to worry that he had spoken to the judge and we went into court. The punk told his story of course saying that he was not at fault and that I attacked him without provocation. The judge listened to his story and then asked me what happened I told him the tale and was corroborated by the cop and the McDonalds Mgr. The judge turned to the guy and said "who am I going to believe? you or the guy in the Scout uniform?" At that he dismissed the charges and said to me, "you know I wish I had stayed with the Scouts when I was a kid It was a lot of fun." Now 5 yrs have passed and the three of them Judge, Cop, and Mgr. are still with us, The Judge is or committee chair, The cop is our advancement chair, and the Mgr. is a merit badge counselor, he was an ASM but his wife just had a baby and he needs some time w/ family before he comes back

SCOUTS OUT!
Vince Silvia
goahead@ef.com

Date: Sun, 3 Dec 1995 14:34:52 -0500
From: "James A. Sheckels" <JASHECKELS@AOL.COM>
Subject: Re: Uniforming

Several (many) years ago I was returning home very late at night from a Scout event in Western NC. I lived in Fayetteville, and I was about 120 miles from home. I needed gas, and I stopped at a station. This was not on a highly travelled road, a two lane state highway. It was about 1130 p.m. It was also winter and very cold; I had on a snorkel style overcoat, Scout uniform underneath. I pumped the truck full and went in to pay. All I had was a check and a couple of dollars (my goof!) Now, these were the days before a lot of phone-line checks for personal checks were mad, and ATM was a foreign

word. My bill was about \$13.00. I pulled out my checkbook to pay, and the attendant immediately informed me that they did not accept personal checks.

I did not have a credit card he would take, and I thought for sure I was on my way to cleaning the grease rack. As I put my wallet back in my pocket, he noticed my uniform and asked "What is that uniform you have on?" I pulled my coat off and showed him. He said "Well, you're a Scout, I'll take that check now".

I don't know how greasy I would have gotten had it not been for the uniform!

: -)

In thirty years of Scouting, many good things have happened because of the uniform, or wearing a red jac-shirt, or a Scout oriented ballcap, too many to remember. But this one time really stickes out in my mind.

YIS Jim Sheckels I used to be a Bobwhite....

Date: Mon, 18 Dec 1995 10:02:57 EST
From: Dan OCanna <ocanna@ALPHA.CAER.UKY.EDU>
Subject: Uniforms and public's attitude

Both Norman and Michael pointed out that nice things happen to Scouts when they wear their uniforms in public. My usuall casual dress in the warmer months is jeans and a Scouting related T-shirt. About once a month a former Scout or Scouter will introduce himself and reminisce a bit about his Scouting experiences.

Our troop also has a designated part of the city where we pick up trash quarterly. One business owner on our route stopped me and asked if we were Scouts. He said he had seen us out previously and wound up sponsoring our booth at the Scout Show. On another occasion a car pulled up by one of our leaders and the driver handed over a \$50 bill as an anonymous donation to the troop. At our next meeting's closing the bill was passed around the

circle and the story related to the Scouts along with some speculation as to why someone would make such a gesture. Holding the bill in their hands impressed the boys greatly as did the reason it was there to hold.

Most of the non Scouting public has a pretty good image of Scouts and what they do. I always try to encourage the boys in your troop to wear as much uniform as they own and will fit them whenever we are in the public eye. With all the bad publicity some young people receive it makes folks feel good to know the Aims of Scouting are still being taught and learned.

Dan O'Canna [ocanna@alpha.caer.uky.edu] Lexington, KY

From mfbowman@CapAccess.org Sun Dec 17 04:31:04 1995
Subject: Re: uniform while traveling

In addition to helping the Scouts to remember to behave better and for leaders to keep tabs on their Scouts, the uniform is a visable sign to the public that we have a program that is working and doing good things. It may not help you or your unit immediately, but it is advertising that may pay dividends latter. I know of one adult here who had been a Scout and hadn't stayed active after school. He saw all the Scouts on tour here in Washington D.C. during JAMBO93 and it brought back memories that led him to volunteer. He is now a commissioner, having served a stint as a unit leader. I also know of a gas station owner who saw a group of Cubs on their way to a field trip and asked to talk to one of the leaders. Shocked, the Cubmaster feared one of his charges had gotten loose and into trouble. Instead it turned out this man had been a Scout in his native country of Pakistan and wanted to know if the unit could use a supporter. For four years he donated about \$50 to \$100 each year to the Pack, just help those little lads in uniform. You never know what the wearing of the uniform will do. :-) I know about this one, cause I was that Cubmaster. Since then, the same fellow has contributed to our District's FOS. :-)

Speaking only for myself in the Scouting Spirit, Michael F. Bowman
DDC-Training, GW Dist. Nat Capital Area Council
mfbowman@CAPACCESS.ORG

From mfbowman@CapAccess.org Sun Dec 17 04:35:23 1995

To: golden cliff <c60clg1@CORN.CSO.NIU.EDU>
Subject: Re: uniform while traveling

Cliff,

I'm still chuckling!! :-)) Do you wear your Khaki shirt now? Had a similar experience as a youth. Got picked up by helicopter radar on my way to serve on a camp staff. Was in uniform. They nailed me at 96. Ooops. Was hauled into Justice of the Peace court. The old gentleman, a Scoutmaster, made me discuss with him A Scout is Obedient and commuted my fine to a service project at camp. :-) Well that was 20+ years ago, but well remembered.

Speaking only for myself in the Scouting Spirit, Michael F. Bowman
DDC-Training, GW Dist. Nat Capital Area Council
mfbowman@CAPACCESS.ORG

Date: Mon, 20 May 1996 14:02:47 -0600
From: Amick Robert <amick@SPOT.COLORADO.EDU>
Subject: Re: Wearing Uniforms and Sending Messages
To: Multiple recipients of list SCOUTS-L <SCOUTS-L@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU>

On Sun, 19 May 1996, Bruce E. Cobern wrote:

>
> I don't believe that we need to, or should, lower our standards in this
> area. I have yet to find a Scout who was truly interested in the program
> who has dropped out because we insist that he wear a uniform. Our
policy
> is that the Scout must be in uniform when he passes through the front
door
> of the meeting place IN BOTH DIRECTIONS. This policy is PRIMARILY
> disseminated to our PLC and other Junior Leaders, with much less
emphasis
> place on it with the younger Scouts, even though, I believe, they are
aware
> of it.

Bruce, with all due respect to your position, I think you may have omitted the primary point of the post. We are not "lowering our standards" in any sense. What we are trying to do is to appreciate the position that older Scouts are faced with, which is their being very uncomfortable with being "required" to wear their Scout uniform while en route to/from Scout

meetings/events. So long as they are in uniform, and on time for the meeting, it is really none of our business whether they wear it from/to home.

I submit, therefore, that requiring a Scout to wear a uniform from home to a meeting is not appropriate if the Scout chooses not to do so.

I must reiterate that the youth of today, compared to of us who grew up "a while back," by virtue of the current societal norms are far more subject to "harrasment" by people they do not even know (much less their "friends" as you say), when they are seen alone in a public setting with a Scout uniform such as riding on public transportation or walking to a meeting.

While it would be desirable to have the Scouts take the positions you have mentioned about "justifying" why they are wearing the uniform, in reality, (and if you ask the Scouts they will very likely affirm this position) it is not so "textbook simple" in real situations. If a Scout chooses to wear a uniform to a meeting, great. But for adult leaders to compel him to do so, which in turn results in his being faced with taunts and harrassment unnecessarily, is wrong. Not all Scouts have the "tools" to respond to such confrontations and some would simply rather withdraw than be faced with such situations; and I know personally of cases where this has happened. What a waste.

It is very difficult for most Scouts, especially teens, to be thrust into such confrontational situations. I know from personal experience, where leaders have "mandated" unreasonable policies such as this and others, Scouts have dropped the program rather than continue to be hassled by their peers or be "compelled" to do something they are not comfortable with. If a policy is questionable, perhaps it should be examined carefully for the impact it has rather than blindly enforcing it.

Too often, especially in the case of older Scouts, we as leaders forget that the teens are really young adults and deserve to be treated as colleagues, not as children. I often wonder if the adults who are so willing to issue "dictates" that may cause the youth a great deal of difficulty, were placed in opposite roles, how they would like it or feel about it. I think that if more of us tried to appreciate the pressures and problems that todays teens experience, we would be far less insistent that they "comply" with some of our standards and dictates, especially,

if in reality, the "standards" don't have some solid rationale for their existence.

All the Scouts I know are not "ashamed" of being in the program. If they were, they would not be there. So that is not the issue at all. But they should not be subjected to the peer pressure and harrassment that in reality they are subjected to, just so some leader can assert an unrealistic position about something he really has no right or rational justification for doing in the first place!

- > When the taunters start to realize that there is
- > more to Scouting than helping little old ladies across the street we might
- > begin to see the image change.

The taunters could care less and anything the Scout may do or say will probably only exacerbate the situation. So why put them at risk in the first place? The Scout should not be expected to "justify" his existence in the program under those circumstances. Reality is not always pleasant, but it is still reality.

As adults we can and often do wear uniforms in other venues before and after meetings, but we generally are not subjected to disparaging comments or taunts, simply because we are not in the same environments as the Scouts may be. And even if we are taunted, we are probably in a much better position to respond effectively, or avoid a confrontation than a Scout might be. I enjoy wearing a uniform in public settings because it often stimulates other adults and youth to say "Oh I was in Scouting, or I am an Eagle Scout, etc.," so there are opportunities and advantages for adults that may not be present for Scouts.

Wearing a uniform in public is not necessarily always the best way for Scouts to share the Scouting Story, unfortunately. When you have large Scouting events such as jamborees, where huge numbers of Scouts are together in public settings or on tours, such as in Washington D.C., it is far different than the environment of a single Scout on a bus or walking down a sidewalk to a meeting. Group tours and events are certainly an appropriate venue for many Scouts to enhance the "uniformed" Scouting image to the public; and because there generally is "safety in numbers," the probability of being taunted by others is far less than in the "one-on-one" scenario discussed above.

Similarly, actions always speak louder than words or images. If the Scout is participating in Scouting activities and events, and enjoying/learning from the experience, he will likely share his enthusiasm with friends and they in turn may also seek membership. The uniform is not the "essence" of Scouting, but merely an "emblem" in a greater way-of-life movement. The "product" is the combined experiential and ideal learning scenario which hopefully brings a youth into full adult citizenship with many "tools" needed to succeed in life.

> As with many other things in Scouting, this is an area where, when there
> appears to be a problem, I recommend making the standards TOUGHER,
rather
> than easier. The boys will almost certainly rise to the challenge. It's
> sort of like the theme line from "Field of Dreams," "If you build it, they
> will come."

With all due respect, and as much as we would all like it to be otherwise, for some situations such as the issue discussed above, reality and the times don't always support that position.

We need to focus our attention on those aspects that we can effectively change and avoid wasting time and resources on those that we cannot or should not in the first place.

Bob Amick, Explorer Advisor, High Adventure Explorer Post 72, Boulder, CO

Date: Sat, 1 Jun 1996 21:59:58 -0500
From: "Settummanque, the blackeagle (MAJ) Mike L. Walton"
<blackeagle@HCC-UKY.CAMPUS.MCI.NET>
Subject: Re: Yellow versus Khaki

Mark Vonderschmitt wrote:

>I mentioned some of the talk going on about uniform changes at the pack
>meeting the other night and the Cub Master (female) and a Cub Master
from
>another pack (female) who helps us out both LIKE the yellow. They said
that
>evidently several surveys had been done at Philmont and the majority
of
>the women like the yellow.

Surveys taken at Philmont aren't always the direction that is finally decided upon as well. A good example of this was the WEBELOS pins debacle, which as some remember, had WEBELOS Cub Scouts wearing the activity pins on the front (blue) part of the WEBELOS Cub Scout hat instead on the WEBELOS badge colors. National wanted to do away with the colors because two surveys taken at Philmont confirmed that most Cub Scouters would rather see the pins on the hat instead on the badge colors. Most cited that the badge colors, worn on the right shoulder, rip easily from the uniform under rough play.

Cub Scouters from all over the nation complained about the hat pin idea, which forced the National Cub Scout Committee to reverse their decision and to retain the WEBELOS badge colors and make it an option for Cubs to do either. Most WEBELOS wear the pins on the badge colors, the "traditional place" for the pins since the program started in 1967.

Another example was the eventual replacement of all references to the word "Den Mother" in Cub Scout literature, as most Den Leaders, male AND female, would rather be called a "Den Leader" instead of a "Den Mother". Again, three surveys taken at Philmont's Volunteer Training Center and at two other locations stated that there still should be a position called "Den Mother". National officially and quietly removed the Den Mother position patches from stock in 1979.

>I said that that wasn't how it sounded like on
>this mail-list and they said the majority on the mail-list might not like
>them but the majority overall did.

That's true as well. Again, stating from the WELCOME letter, information here should be considered as the same type of information one would get from a friend, and not necessarily National BSA or any other official policy unless stated as such. However, once the folks at National decide what exactly they want to do, I feel that everyone will be happy...both those that enjoy the traditional yellow blouse as well as those that want to wear the same uniform as most other Scouters. As I stated, once they do that, official word of the new changes/modification will come through those usual BSA communications channels.

I would ask if you feel one way or the other, to please WRITE to the National Insignia and Uniform Committee, S310, National Office, BSA at the Irving, Texas address and express your concern. The advisor to the

Committee will NOT confirm one way or another about the proposal, only that "ongoing studies concerning dress by female Cub Scout leaders are being conducted, with additional testing to be conducted in selected local Councils before a final decision is made. No decision is made at this time, despite any information to the contrary."

Which is true.

Settummanque!

(MAJ) Mike L. Walton (Settummanque, the blackeagle) (_____)_
co-Owner, Blackeagle Services of Kentucky (502.826.7046) |**|]
174 Chapelwood Drive, Henderson, Kentucky 42420-5036
(H) 502.827.9201 (F) 502.826.7046 (W) 888.284.4848 (yea!) coffee?
anytime!

Date: Sun, 19 May 1996 12:03:29 -0400 (EDT)
From: "Michael F. Bowman" <mfbowman@CapAccess.org>
To: SCOUTS-L - Youth Groups Discussion List <SCOUTS-L@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU>
cc: Multiple recipients of list SCOUTS-L <SCOUTS-L@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU>
Subject: Re: Wearing Uniforms and Sending Messages

Ned,

Uniforms

Somewhere around the age of 14/15, if not earlier, you are going to find that most boys are going to get real shy about wearing their BSA uniforms, because they are beginning to try to become separate from their parents and pay more attention to their peers. Most of their peers are going to give them a hard time (read that as non-acceptance, when they really want peer acceptance) if they wear a sharp uniform instead of an untucked shirt and drooping pants. They'll put up with sports uniforms and band uniforms because their peers aren't going to give them such a hard time, though not always, and because they feel that they get acceptance

from peers for excelling in the same school through sports or band or whatever. Kids wearing a letter jacket still seem to be regarded by others in a favorable light. The same is not true of a Scout uniform at this age. They kind of see it as something from a younger age when parental dominance was more complete and therefore not too cool. A lot of this is perception, and as long as your Scouts have a perception that the uniform will get them jeered, they probably would rather drop dead

than be seen in uniform at a school event or even when their buddies might see them.

Mail

You make a good point. It would be helpful if all subscribers put their e-mail address in the text of their messages. Not all e-mail readers allow the user to see all of the headers.

Most e-mail packages allow a user to chose to reply to the sender of an e-mail and/or to the group. You might want to talk with your sysop to see whether you have that choice and just haven't quite figured it out yet. Wish I knew more about Lotus cc: mail.

You should expect to see e-mail from both the list and individual on the list. While much of the general discussion is on the list, there are a great many of us who will send more e-mails privately than to the list rather than clog the list with every message. If something is specific to an individual with minimum value to the rest of the 2000 or so folks that might get the e-mail from the list, then a private e-mail is in order.

Speaking Only for Myself in the Scouting Spirit, Michael F. Bowman
a/k/a Professor Beaver (WB), ASTA #2566, OA Vigil Honor '71, Eagle Scout '67, Serving as Deputy District Commissioner for Training,
G.W.Dist., Nat. Capital Area Council, BSA - mfbowman@capaccess.org

Date: Wed, 7 Aug 1996 18:16:31 -0500
From: golden cliff <c60clg1@CORN.CSO.NIU.EDU>
Subject: Re: International Flights - Wear Uniform?

I would vote yes to wear a uniform while traveling.
I have a couple of short stories about uniforms in foreign lands.

Story #1

We were searching for a youth hostel in Lyon, France. We were dressed in class A uniforms. We were confused and must have looked it.

A woman approached us and said her son was a Scout and asked if we needed help. I told her the address we were looking for. She tried explaining it to me, but the directions were complicated.

She finally smiled and said "Follow me". She literally took me by the hand, and rode with us on the subway, transferred once to another train, and put us on the correct bus, telling the bus driver where we were to get off, and drawing me a walking map of how to get to the hostel from the bus stop.

She really went out of her way to help us. We all thanked her as she disappeared into a crowd. I call her the "Unknown Mom" who helped a Scoutmaster and his Scouts (lost in a "mental fog") find their way. Without the uniforms, she probably would have never approached us.

Story #2

While on a two week trip in Mexico, we were riding on a train when a large group of Mexican Scouts boarded. They were in full uniform, we were not in uniform at the time. They brushed past us.

We were saving our uniform for the jet ride home (We'd already worn them a few days earlier). We went into the next car and put on our Scout shirts. One Mexican Scout saw us and soon we had 40 Mexican Scouts swarming all around us wanting to trade patches and talk with us. Instant friends within seconds.

Story #3

We were attending a Bruce Springsteen concert "Born in the USA", in a park in Paris, France. We were in full class A uniforms hoping Bruce might spot us in the crowd (we were only 30' from right center stage) and also because we were born in the USA and wanted everyone to know it. Some chemically altered concert attendee decided it would be cute to rip the American flag off the shirt of one of our Scouts. When he realized he was surrounded by American Scouts and Scouters, he sheepishly grinned, apologized, and quietly retreated into the crowd.

Story #4 (last one)

In Rome, Italy we had stopped one evening for pizza on our way to the Trevi fountain. I thought it would be fun to see the Trevi Fountain lit up at night (we had seen it in daylight the previous day). We were in class A uniforms. This was just days after an american TWA jetliner had been hijacked from the airport in Athens, Greece in 1985. Fringe groups were coming out of the woodwork with anti-american demonstrations.

As we ate our pizza some american college students saw our Scout shirts and came over to converse with us. We talked of the recent crisis and about some anti-american sentiment that was surfacing. The students said they were leaving Rome after dinner because they were afraid. I asked them why. They said one of the reasons was the anti-american rally taking place that night at the plaza surrounding Trevi Fountain. My Scouts turned and looked at me questioningly. I decided it would be a better idea to skip Trevi Fountain that night and stay at the hotel writing post cards and watching american re-runs on TV (dubbed in italian).

Wearing the uniform overseas can be a positive or negative experience, depending on the circumstances. I have always had overwhelmingly positive experiences, with just a few potentially bad ones.

We always wear class A's on airline flights.

YIS, Cliff Golden

Scoutmaster Troop 33; DeKalb, Illinois

From: rickram@juno.com (Richard E. Rambo)

Date: Sun, 02 Feb 1997 02:29:07 EST

Errors-To: owner-jambo97@hoplite.org

On Sat, 01 Feb 1997 21:49:39 EST my-jambo-net@juno.com (Robert B Carswell, Sr) writes:

>I have been told that the scout are to wear the BSA shorts as >part of the uniform. These shorts are a little skimpy. Can the >scout wear the long pants or is this a problem with the "official" uniform. I have been told we could by the long pants >and cut short to a decent length, but that is a little costly.

The 2nd Assistant SM in my son's Troop said to check out the women's shorts, that the only difference is that they are cut a little longer. When I bought new shorts last year I had to purchase them a full size larger than my long pants to be able to raise my leg because the cut is so weird.

Richard E. (Rick) Rambo, Troop Advancement Chairman, Troop 89,
Wy-East District, Cascade Pacific Council
SPOTTED, BARN OR SNOWY WHITE, OWL IS THE PATROL THAT'S RIGHT!

Date: Mon, 3 Feb 1997 22:26:25 -0500
To: Jambo97@hoplite.org
From: aschup@why.net (aschup)
Subject: Re: JAMBO97 I would like to wear longer shorts
Errors-To: owner-jambo97@hoplite.org
Precedence: bulk
Reply-To: jambo97@hoplite.org
Status: RO
X-Status:

Robert B Carswell, Sr wrote:

>
> I have been told that the scout are to wear the BSA shorts as part of
> the uniform.
> These shorts are a little skimpy. Can the scout wear the long pants or is
> this a problem with the "official" uniform. I have been told we could
> bye the long pants and cut short to a decent length, but that is a
> little costly.

I agree about the too short cut of the shorts. Not only do our Morman friends have trouble with the shorts, but everyone who wears boxer-type underwear. (Unfortunately, sometimes it is not only the boxers that accidently hang out below because the shorts are too short <grin>). The shorts really need to be lengthened for modesty sake. Maybe a compromise can be made. The BSA can re-institute the BSA boxers with a length that accomodates the short pants length...

-Alan Schup

\\///
(' o-o ')

ooOo_(

)_OOoo

H. Alan Schup (aschup@why.net) Scoutmaster...Asso Post Advisor
Longhorn Council (Ft Worth TX) COPE facilitator...Rifle/Shotgun Instructor
Arrow of Light; Eagle Scout '78 Climbing Tower Instructor...Rock Climbing
|<--=90--<<<| "Nishkin" (#489) Radio MB (N5IJH)...Electricity MB
Woodbadge SC-173 (Eagle) Electronics MB...Safety MB...Computers MB
NESA Life member, Alpha Phi Omega Life Member, NRA Life Member
Jambo 81 TP "C" / Jambo 85 K2BSA / Jambo 89 TP "C" / Jambo 97 Action A
Rifle

Oooo

oooO () Have patches, will trade
()) /
\ ((/
\)

To: jambo97@hoplite.org
Date: Sun, 2 Feb 1997 23:56:53 PST
Subject: Re: JAMBO97 Hats

Touche on the hats. I have never liked the baseball hats. The backs are too open and no protection for the ears. How about a hat like the new "Australian" hat our Canadian neighbors are going to?

On Sun, 02 Feb 1997 21:34:50 -0500 Andrew Hagemann
<hagemann@visi.net>

writes:

>Jack R. Rush, Jr. <rush@oswego.us.alcan.ca> wrote:

>

>... major snippage ...

>

>> I would really prefer one with a 360-degree brim, tho' -- never
>cared much

>> for the baseball cap style.

>>

>

>
>Here, here! I burn easily and I would really like to see a BSA
>"golf-style" or "boonie-style" hat approved for field wear.
>
>YiS,
>Drew
>---
>Andrew Hagemann
>SA, Troop 6
>A "Charging" Buffalo, SR-158
>Jamboree 97 Metal Work MB Booth Coordinator
>

Date: Sun, 02 Feb 1997 09:18:14 -0900
From: "Linn E. Seidel" <jolipa@alaska.net>
X-Mailer: Mozilla 2.01KIT (Win95; U)
MIME-Version: 1.0
To: jambo97@hoplite.org
Subject: JAMBO97 jamboree and shorts
X-URL: <http://w3.trib.com/~dont/scouting/jambo97.html>
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
Errors-To: owner-jambo97@hoplite.org
Precedence: bulk
Reply-To: jambo97@hoplite.org
Status: RO
X-Status:

The new shorts that BSA carries are made a little longer than before also they come with elastic in the waist band they are comfortable to wear and not so revealing. We don't get much of a chance to wear shorts in Alaska but we sell a few pair. I just wish they had the extra cargo pockets on them(long and short pants would be more practical with the return of the cargo pockets)

Joe Seidel
used to be an Scouting Eagle W1-610-87

Date: Mon, 3 Feb 1997 14:03:38 -0500
Reply-To: "Michael R. Trotochaud" <powell@APICAL.COM>
Sender: Scouts-L Youth Group List <Scouts-L@tcu.edu>

From: "Michael R. Trotochaud" <powell@APICAL.COM>
Subject: Scout uniforms
To: Multiple recipients of list SCOUTS-L <SCOUTS-L@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU>
Status: RO
X-Status:

Has BSA considered either creating a field uniform or changing the uniform so that it is more practical? The present uniform is nice for ceremonies, yet it is not practical in the field. One of the difficulties that units in my area have is that scouts don't always want to wear their uniforms on outings.

Part of the reason for this is that not many people want to go out and hike through the mud in a \$40-50 pair of pants. The other reason is that there are so many sporting goods companies now that they can buy better equipment at a lower price.

I realize that we are not a paramilitary organization, but when the BSA was first founded it encouraged the scouts to wear military surplus because it was available, durable and the pattern for which ours were constructed.

There are scouts in my unit that wear fatigue pants, and speaking for myself they're great. There is nothing like having six large pockets and a pair of pants made out of a ripstop material. When wet they dry quickly, and they take a lot of abuse.

After I wore out my first pair of scout pants, I bought a second pair of pants strictly for ceremonies.

Just wondering.
Michael R. Trotochaud
Eagle Class of '90
Assist. Scoutmaster
Troop 22
East Haddam, Conn.

Date: Sun, 16 Feb 1997 16:47:52 -0600
Reply-To: Jim Carter <hci@CS.USASK.CA>
Sender: Scouts-L Youth Group List <Scouts-L@tcu.edu>
From: Jim Carter <hci@CS.USASK.CA>
Subject: BSA, GSUSA and Scouting
X-To: scouts-l@tcu.edu

**To: Multiple recipients of list SCOUTS-L <SCOUTS-L@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU>
Status: RO
X-Status:**

Greetings from Canada which was (probably) the second last country in the world to fully accept coed Scouting (about 4 years ago now). Especially best wishes to our brother and sister Scouts and Scouters in the last country to fully accept coed.

For the previous two years I was Cubmaster to a coed Cub Pack. This year I am Scoutmaster to a coed Scout Troop. The girls are equal participants in all ways and have always held their share of leadership positions. This is partially because both the Pack and the Troop started off as being coed and thus avoided the baggage of all those with entrenched views on the separation of the sexes in Scouting. These entrenched views are just as much a historical legacy that has little or nothing to do with Scouting as short pants.

BP explained that he wore shorts because that was what the kids of his day regularly wore. Thus today we should accept blue jeans! Likewise he separated the sexes in a cosmetic way (with different organizations in accordance with the expectations of the time) recognizing that the same basic idea of Scouting was good for both groups.

Coed Scouting works. What works far less well is trying to get entrenched power groups to allow Scouting to work as it should. In Canada our organizational chart shows the youth at the top, then the leaders, then the commissioners, and finally national at the bottom. While everyone pays lip service to this arrangement, the closer people are to national the less they often act like they believe it. Sometimes they need a reminder or two.

It seems that the Scouts in the rest of the world are far more fortunate than those in the USA (both BSA and GSUSA) since we own our program - our national headquarters exist (at least in theory) to support us. The amount of concern raised by BSA and GSUSA leaders for regulations imposed upon you is quite amazing. BP warned us against Synthetic Scouting:

>Personally I fear there is the danger that a kind of synthetic Scouting may creep >into our training in place of the natural article described in Scouting for Boys. ... By >"synthetic Scouting" I mean the Scout system obscured by over clothing the natural >form with rules and instructive literature, tending to make what originally was, an >open-air game into a science for the Scouter and a school curriculum for the boy.
> BP, Aug, 1936

Don't forget that Scouting's a game and if it isn't Fun then it isn't Scouting. If it isn't fun, reasonable, or necessary, then tell the rule makers it sin't real Scouting. Tell them that unnecessary rules should go or that they should go (and then you replace them with people that will let these sunthetic rules go).

In Scouting we're trying to teach leadership to all our members. When it comes to offensive Synthetic Scouting limitations we need to demonstrate leadership by demanding change. If we don't, what kind of leadership are we teaching our Scouts?

Good Scouting All,

Jim Carter <hci@cs.usask.ca>

Date: Mon, 17 Feb 1997 17:17:26 -0700 (MST)
From: Amick Robert <amick@spot.Colorado.EDU>
To: "Michael F. Bowman" <mfbowman@CapAccess.org>
Subject: Re: Scout uniforms
In-Reply-To: <Pine.SUN.3.91-FP.970217024532.17333J-100000@cap1.capaccess.org>
Message-ID: <Pine.GSO.3.95.970217165051.11554D-100000@spot.Colorado.EDU>
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Type: TEXT/PLAIN; charset=US-ASCII
Status: RO
X-Status: A

Michael,

Thanks for the compliment; coming from you that is quite an honor. I appreciate your sage advice which often gets to the "heart of the matter."

With regard to the uniforms, it is interesting that you should bring that

up. One of our revered Scouters, Dr. Wells Shulls, was our District Commissioner for many years and also Advisory Board Chair for Alpha Phi Omega. In the late 70's he served on a national advisory committee which was assigned to design the "new" BSA uniform which emerged in the 1980's.

Evidently, the trend was to propose a dove gray shirt and navy blue trousers which folks could easily substitute blue jeans for, since many Scouts don't buy uniform trousers anyway.

For various reasons, and much to his chagrin, other influences overrode the recommendation of the committee and the present khaki/o.d. combination

was approved, which at the time bore a very strong resemblance to the military green beret uniform, and many commented on the similarity.

But, that is ancient history. With regard to your comment about the cub uniform, I think practicality is or should be the watchword. Many kids and families are hard pressed to afford new uniforms, and often, at least in our case, will use uniform banks to use recycled uniforms. The new products have just gotten progressively more expensive and for the folks on low income, it can be a real problem.

I personally thought the dove gray shirt was always a good idea, and much prefer it to the present khaki version. Of course, my first and always favorite is the forest green Explorer uniform, and I certainly hope that it is retained. Jean Hudak who retired from National Supply in 1994 told me that the reason they discontinued it in 1990 was low volume, and only through substantial protest and demand was it brought back in 1994.

I agree with your thoughts on the Cub uniform, because again, most kids wear jeans as a matter of practicality, so if they only have to buy a shirt, so much the better. Navy blue for cubs is a good color, and seems appropos to continue.

I also have an issue with the manner in which insignia has been matched to the uniform color. As you know, rank advancement used to be multicolored, and therefore stood out as a distinctive emblem. When the fabric of the background was changed to match the color of the uniform, it violated a key principle of visual acuity, which is "the luminance of the object viewed is directly proportional to the luminance of the background." In

essence, when you have colors such as yellow and brown which are used on the insignia, they tend to "blend in" with the khaki color of the uniform and tend to be far less visible.

If you are a military or police agency that deliberately wants to "camoflounge" insignia with matching or blending colors, that philosophy is fine, but in Scouts, that is far from the object. Well, so much for my "soapbox."

Another "pet peeve" is the nearly all cotton Scout socks. These items have been the sole source of major foot problems at Jamborees because Scouts and Leaders wear only the cotton uniform socks and then develop disabling foot blisters. When I worked medical staff at the last five jamborees, we treated an exorbitant number of folks for blisters which need never have occurred. I made this known to supply service prior to the 1993 jamboree through a friend of mine on National Staff, and the reply he got from Supply was almost laughable. The bottom line was they didn't think it was a problem and chose not to change the fabric. However, being tenacious I have re-submitted the issue through the National Health and Safety Committee which meets this month, and hopefully will be somewhat more "persuasive" in getting the fabric changed to a synthetic blend of high bulk acrylic or "coolmax" which wicks moisture away and does not rub the tissue.

I will of course honor your request for confidentiality, and again thanks for sharing your thoughts. Good luck on the project, and let me know if I can be of any assistance.

Best wishes,

Bob Amick

Date: Mon, 17 Feb 1997 17:29:26 -0700 (MST)
From: Amick Robert <amick@spot.Colorado.EDU>
To: "Michael F. Bowman" <mfbowman@CapAccess.org>
Subject: Re: Scout uniforms
In-Reply-To: <Pine.SUN.3.91-FP.970217024532.17333J-100000@cap1.capaccess.org>
Message-ID: <Pine.GSO.3.95.970217171829.11554E-100000@spot.Colorado.EDU>

MIME-Version: 1.0

Content-Type: TEXT/PLAIN; charset=US-ASCII

Status: RO

X-Status:

Michael,

A Post Script

With regard to trousers and/or a "field uniform" some thought might be given to something like police officers and paramedics wear, which has cargo pockets, and is a fabric which is tough and durable. Lots of folks have expressed dismay about the loss of cargo pockets, but kids really seem to like them as do many adults. So if a field uniform is truly being considered, those are some possibilities. The use of "high tech" fabrics should certainly be considered, but there is always the issue of cost, and some way to keep the costs within reason would be essential. Maybe working with major suppliers of outdoor/mountaineering clothing and equipment might be considered.

The more "user friendly" a uniform is, the more likely folks are to wear it, especially without fear of being castigated by their peers. With all due respect to the fashion designer who did the first roll-out of the BSA "new" uniform, someone needs to take a long hard look at sizing, comfort, durability, functionality, aesthetics, attractiveness to youth and reasonable cost.

Exploring has a natural advantage because they can design and select uniforms of their choice which are similar to those of their specialty or hobby, or just a casual uniform of a polo shirt with a logo, if they choose. So maybe this is not a bad model to follow for some of the other programs.

It wouldn't hurt to ask the folks who are most affected by these decisions, and who are least often consulted, which of course is the Scouts. I find myself incessantly reminding leaders that youth members should have a voice and a vote in decisions which affect them. If they buy into a program because they have been empowered by a having a say about decisions that affect them, they are much more likely to represent the views and preferences of their peers.

Well, so much for soapbox #2

Thanks,

Bob

Date: Mon, 10 Mar 1997 09:18:22 -0700
Reply-To: Jan Mussler <mussler@SPOT.COLORADO.EDU>
Sender: Scouts-L Youth Group List <Scouts-L@tcu.edu>
From: Jan Mussler <mussler@SPOT.COLORADO.EDU>
Subject: For the Women Only - Uniforms
To: Multiple recipients of list SCOUTS-L <SCOUTS-L@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU>
Status: RO
X-Status:

OK, it's time to go buy a Khaki shirt/blouse. I went down to the Scout store and held up the Women's blouse and then I held up the Men's shirt. The women's blouse seems to be missing about 2 inches or better on the shirt tail. So OK - my question is - are the women over 5'8" wearing the blouse or just buying the men's shirt? And does anyone how you'd line up the sizes - a men's small would be approx. a women's size ??? a men's medium about a women's size ??? They were out of several sizes at the store so I couldn't try anything on last week.

YIS,

Jan Mussler, Bear DL, Pack 170, Nederland, CO
mussler@spot.Colorado.EDU
Arapahoe District, Longs Peak Council

/\ /\ /\ 8500 feet and still climbing...
 / \ \ / \
 / \ \ \

Date: Tue, 11 Mar 1997 08:36:00 EST
Reply-To: meyerd@JUNO.COM
Sender: Scouts-L Youth Group List <Scouts-L@tcu.edu>
From: "Diane M. Meyer" <meyerd@JUNO.COM>
Subject: Re: For the Women Only - Uniforms
X-To: mussler@SPOT.COLORADO.EDU
To: Multiple recipients of list SCOUTS-L <SCOUTS-L@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU>
Status: RO

X-Status:

On Mon, 10 Mar 1997 09:18:22 -0700 Jan Mussler

<mussler@SPOT.COLORADO.EDU> writes:

**>The women's blouse seems to be missing about 2 inches or better on the
>shirt tail. So OK - my question is - are the women over 5'8" wearing
the**

**>blouse or just buying the men's shirt? And does anyone how you'd line
up**

**>the sizes - a men's small would be approx. a women's size ??? a men's
>medium about a women's size ???**

Jan,

**You're right about the length of the shirt and they also have fewer
buttons, spaced wider apart (some of the same problems w/the yellow
shirt!). I happen to have one men's shirt and one women's blouse (it was
all they had in short sleeve and I needed it in a hurry). The women's is
XL; men's L. I'm 5' 10" and prefer the men's. I think, but can't be
sure, that it's a little heavier weight material.**

Diane M. Meyer meyerd@juno.com

The CyberScouter

CM & WDL Pack 160; CS RT Staff

Broken Arrow District/Mid-Iowa Council

<http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Plains/5160>

Date: Mon, 10 Mar 1997 18:06:51 -0800

Reply-To: talarowski@SPRYNET.COM

Sender: Scouts-L Youth Group List <Scouts-L@tcu.edu>

From: Susan Best <talarowski@SPRYNET.COM>

Subject: Re: For the Women Only - Uniforms

X-To: Jan Mussler <mussler@SPOT.COLORADO.EDU>

To: Multiple recipients of list SCOUTS-L <SCOUTS-L@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU>

Status: RO

X-Status:

Jan,

**If this is any guidance: I have both a Large Men's shirt (short-sleeved) and
an
extra-large women's shirt (long-sleeved). I tried on my husband's Large
long-sleeved shirt and the sleeves were a bit long and I'd have to move
the**

buttons to tighten up the cuff to keep them off my hands (And I have long arms).

However, I agree with Mary that it is best to try it on.

There are differences in the men's and women's shirts, other than the obvious one of the buttons being on different sides. The women's shirt doesn't have a top button and is just a bit different at the neck(I suppose figuring that women won't be wearing a tie with it.) I've also noticed that the women's shirts (at least the one's I've seen in this area) don't have standard BSA buttons. Some of them have a plain brown button that looks similar but doesn't have the fleur-de-lis that the men's shirts have. I've seen some, however, that don't even have a dark brown button - they have a light colored, somewhat translucent button. Why they would have different buttons is beyond me, but I certainly don't like the light colored buttons. Any more shirts I buy will be men's shirts.

YIS

Susan Best

S.Best@swe.org

Troop COmmittee, Troop 296, Cradle of Liberty COuncil, PA

I used to be an eagle... and working my ticket

On Mon, 10 Mar 1997, Jan Mussler <mussler@SPOT.COLORADO.EDU> wrote:

>OK, it's time to go buy a Khaki shirt/blouse. I went down to the Scout

>store and held up the Women's blouse and then I held up the Men's shirt.

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>
> /\ /\ /\ 8500 feet and still climbing...
> / \ \ / \
>/ \ \ \
>
>
>

Date: Tue, 11 Mar 1997 22:00:44 -0800
Reply-To: Joyce and Jerry Johnson <jjj39@IDT.NET>
Sender: Scouts-L Youth Group List <Scouts-L@tcu.edu>
From: Joyce and Jerry Johnson <jjj39@IDT.NET>
Subject: Re: For the Women Only - Uniforms
To: Multiple recipients of list SCOUTS-L <SCOUTS-L@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU>
Status: RO
X-Status:

Good Evening,

In 1981-82 when National introduced a new line of uniforms I of course purchased a full set. After two months I donated the whole lot to a uniform bank. That was the most memorable of many uncomfortable uniform purchases.

I wear the men's uniform shirt. It is longer, a heavier material, deeper pockets and seems to take the wear and tear better than the women's. My favorite, well worn shirt was purchased in 1986. Being the Camporee Advisor I needed all the pocket space I could get and only the men's had the pen hole and button to keep all that stuff safe. (Like money and notes, etc).

I suggest that any lady that needs to purchase a new uniform that you try on both the men's and women's. If you are involved with lots of outdoor activity really consider the men's. For Boards of Review, Courts of Honor, Council and District Dinners I do wear the skirt and a women's' shirt.

>From a person who has had many BSA uniforms in her closet since 1973.

**YIS,
Joyce Johnson
Bellevue WA**

**Date: Wed, 12 Mar 1997 00:27:57 -0800
From: Dana and Marian McQuaid <mcquaid@TIAC.NET>
Subject: non-uniform sizes**

I just gave up. I wear normally a size 8 pair of jeans. Blue uniform pants size 10 were too small. The store dude said we could try ordering a pair of size 14 (as a guess), but the wait was 7 or more weeks. My pants are now a boy size 20. Go figure. If I wanted size 38 or up, the local Scout Shop had them. And when will we see a maternity style uniform again? Cubs aren't just hatched you know. I've had this problem 3 times!!

**Date: Thu, 22 May 1997 00:32:06 -0500
From: MR JOHN A SEVERINO <HBDP31A@PRODIGY.COM>
Subject: Re: UNIFORM INSPECTIONS**

Hey Ron, right on!

OK you other guys, here's some helpful hints; that's what they are, HINTS, not Severino giving directions, all right???

As a Unit Commissioner, my Packs receive their one formal inspection in the fall and the Troops get two: one in the fall and one in the spring. This is according to the Commissioner Unit Service Plan (it's in one of the Commissioner manuals).

AT THE PACK COMMITTEE MEETING BEFORE I DO ANYTHING, I review the Pack's Uniform Policy with the parents and leaders, and also point out recurring problems common to most units. I do this a full month in advance so DLs can get the word out.

At the Pack Meeting: after I first inspect the Cubmaster and his Assistants. Then I start with the Senior Webelos Den Leader, her Assistant, their Den Chiefs and then the Sr. Webelos.

I QUICKLY make one pass--head to toe--and move from Cub to Cub, make some comments to the Den Leader, and then smartly move to the Jr. Webelos, Bears and Wolves, inspecting each den in the same manner.

I give the Tigers a cursory inspection (stare at each of them for a moment--they find this quite amusing) and then I brief the Cubmaster, compliment him on the stellar appearance of his pack, present a certificate (any standard Scout Shop nice looking one will do), and present a small patch to the best looking cub in the Pack.

While I inspect I quietly mention (do not point out) discrepancies to the Den Leader who makes tick marks on each cub's inspection sheet, and then uses them later on for training if she so desires. If the Unit Leader requests a score, in the case of Troops to note progress, I will provide one soon after inspecting. Usually I don't score a Pack, since the fall inspection is used to get the new families on board with uniforming after Roundup.

I do mention that Den UNIFORMITY is just as important as individual uniform excellence.

I'm interested in how other leaders conduct inspections as none of the Scout books are a roadmap.

For Scout Troops I do the above, but take more time.

In any unit, this is a lesson in Attention to Detail, one of the few chances we as leaders get to drive home the point. How you deliver this lesson is just as important as the product.

Happy "Hunting",

**John Severino, UC
Past District Chairman
Los Angeles Area Council**

**Date: Fri, 23 May 1997 21:44:14 -0000
From: Bob Knudson <rknudson@DU.EDU>
Subject: Re: UNIFORM INSPECTIONS**

I'm a firm believer in using uniform inspections as a tool to promote the value of wearing the uniform in the cub scout's eyes. (an old management adage is that anything that is measured will be attended to).

Last year, I invited a marine recruiter to come to our pack meeting in dress uniform and explain the significance of his uniform to the cubs.

(the guy never showed up (semper fi), next time I'll ask the navy or air force, but a good idea nonetheless.)

This year, I did the uniform inspection while the dens were working on another group activity. i called each den up, and complimented the boys on their appearance. (the idea is to be positive at first to build up the ethic of uniforming; we can improve the accuracy of patch sewing over the long term with parent education). We also used the occasion to take den and individual pictures of the scouts for display at our blue and gold banquet, and for sale (at cost) to the parents.

We are "without" a unit commissioner, but I plan to invite the DE and/or DC to our pack next year.

Date: Thu, 22 May 1997 22:50:50 -0400
From: "Mark M. Hagensick" <Hagensick1@AOL.COM>
Subject: Re: UNIFORM INSPECTIONS

One of the things I tried as Cubmaster was to invite special guest to our inspections. I would get people who wore uniforms in their jobs, ie Fireman, Police Officer, Postal worker, Park Ranger, etc.

Our guests would each briefly describe their uniform and explain why the uniform was important in their job. The guests, assisted by the Den Leaders would then conduct the inspections (one inspector per den to cut down on the time element). The inspections were done as a training opportunity for the scouts and their parents. No scores were tallied, no awards were given. The inspection sheets were kept by the boys to use to learn from.

YIS, Mark

~~~~~

|                        |                                 |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Mark M. Hagensick      | "No person among us desires     |
| SA Troop 721           | any other reward for performing |
| Brotherhood            | a brave and worthy action, but  |
| Nentico - #12          | the consciousness of having     |
| Baltimore Area Council | served his nation"              |
| Hagensick1@aol.com     | --Thayendanegea --              |

~~~~~

