

BSA[®] Adopt
-a-school

Scouts making a difference in our schools

What is Adopt-A-School?



- Started as a National BSA Pilot Program in 2011 with 15 Councils
- Launched Nationally June 2012
- Help Units address relationship issues with Schools
- Currently 22 Councils in 32 States.
 - 9 Central/Southern
 - 5 Northeast
 - 8 Western

Updated Facts:

- 130 Schools Adopted
- 5,051 Scouts Have Adopted Schools
- 128 Packs/Troops/Crews Adopted Schools
- 34 Service Projects Performed
- 1,173 Rockers Awarded

What Are The Issues?

- **Promoting & Recruiting Scouts from Schools**
Boy Talks, Flyers, Signage,
Back to School Night for Scouting
- **School Building Access**
Use of Facilities & Fees
- **Active Involvement with School & Leaders**
More than just a meeting place
Service to Benefit Schools
Show What Scouting Can Do!



How Does it Work?

1. Pack/Troop/Crew Approaches School –
Meets with Principal (Face-to-Face)
2. Agree to FOUR Service projects to be completed during the year and schedule them.
3. Register Your Unit's Pledge on BSA Micro Site
www.BSAAdoptASchool.org
4. Record Project Hours on Micro-Site that links to Journey to Excellence

Service Project Ideas

- Grounds beautification
- Building improvements
- Giving Tree
- Flag ceremonies
- Teacher appreciation
- Festival & Event helpers
- Book Drives
- Clean-up after school events
- Green efforts
- Literacy programs
- Food Drives

Work with your school to determine their specific needs!

Created Pencil Holders & Gave out Pencils to Students & School Staff





Veteran's Day Flag Ceremony



Flower Bulb Planting Project





Installation of a
Bicycle Rack



Pledge Letter

We, _____, pledge to adopt _____ for a period of one year, beginning _____. We will fulfill our commitment by completing a minimum of one volunteer service project per quarter. We look forward to working with the principal and staff to identify the school's needs and establish a plan that will bring meaningful progress.

We are honored to serve in this way, and through sustained volunteer service we hope to contribute to the advancement of this school and to the spirit of community between our Scouts and our adopted school.

After each completed project, our Scouts will receive an Adopt-A-School patch in recognition of their participation and accomplishments. At the end of the year, the council and school will both receive a plaque recognizing completed projects and the year's overall success.

Council Name

City and State

Scout Leader

of Scouts in Unit

School Principal

School Name

Unit Registers Online

www.bsaadoptaschool.org

Update status of projects
Upload photos and comments
See what other units are doing

Once each project is completed/logged a
patch is sent to the unit.

Recognition Materials

- Participation patches
- Project completion patches



- Signs or plaques for participating Councils and Schools





•Case Study #1

- Pack 42, South Bound Brook, NJ
Reformed Church of Bound Brook
- Robert Morris Elementary School (K-8)
only school in community



**Cub Scouts help South Bound Brook
pick up the pieces from Hurricane Sandy**

By [Meghan D. Hodgin/NJ.com](http://Meghan.D.Hodgin/NJ.com)

on November 03, 2012 at 12:15 PM, updated November 03, 2012 at 12:19 PM

Benefits to Pack 42:

- Partnering with Troop 42
- Positive Media Exposure
- Town Government Calls



•Case Study #2

Monmouth Council, NJ – Pilot Council

- Pack 331, Troop 331 Village School PSA, Holmdel, NJ
- Pack 131, Holmdel FD
- Village School, Elementary School, Holmdel, NJ

All 3 units meet at Village School

Benefits to Scouting in Holmdel:

- Created Dialogue between School and Scouting
- Better unit attendance
- Membership up
15% Packs 20% Troop
- More Eagle Service Projects
- Improved attitude of Custodians!
- Scoutmaster: BSA Adopt-A-School program "A no brainer"

- **Case Study #3**

- **Pack 610, Pelham, New Hampshire**

- **Pelham, High School**



Benefits to Community at Large

- HS has 40 new Lab benches
- Much more Science Lab Equipment
- Community more supportive of local Schools!

One Bear scout observed,

“Even though we aren’t in high school it isn’t right to do nothing when kids may graduate without a ‘real’ diploma.”

Commonly Asked Questions

What is the time commitment for the unit?

At least one year, but our hope is to build strong, sustained relationships with these schools.

How much time (weekly or monthly) is the unit expected to give?

One project per quarter, unless otherwise agreed upon by the school/unit.

What commitment is expected from the school?

School representatives need to help identify their needs and approve the projects to be done.

Who do we need to speak to first? Principal? Teachers? PTA?

Contact the principal first, then involve teachers and the PTA as needed.

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.

What if a school is not interested in being adopted?

Contact Adopt-a-School so that we may assist you in building a successful relationship with your school.

How do I deal with unions? Who speaks to them?

Before you officially meet with school officials, we recommend you call them and identify which union representatives might also need to be included in your initial meeting. Then sit down with all concerned to decide the school's needs and how Scouts can be of assistance.

Adopt-A-School Program Benefits

- BSA Adopt-a-School is a process to address the breakdown in relationship between Scouting and the school systems we serve.
- This process is where true community development work can begin.
A win/win situation for both Scouting and our schools.
- Increase exposure of Scouting values to schools and local community
- Increase membership through positive exposure
- Increase JTE hours

What Else Can Your Pack, Troop or Crew Do?

Invite Principal, BOE members, staff, faculty members to major unit functions (IE: Blue and Gold banquet, Courts of Honor)

Remember the School secretary on certain days

Remember the custodians

Recognition awards (Plaques for School, Patches for Principal)

RESOURCES

Face Book

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/BSA-Adopt-a-School>

Twitter

<https://twitter.com/BSAadoptaSchool>

Microsite/Blog Address:

<http://www.bsaadoptaschool.org/>

Patriots' Path Council, BSA

Adopt-A-School Contacts

District Community Services Chairs

- Black River – Bill Whitley, 908-953-0225, bill6254@msn.com
- Fishawack – Leona Hobson, 973-372-9017, ljboyd1@aol.com
- Munsee – Steven Kurland, 201-341-7380, stevenk@shelvingdepot.com
- Raritan Valley – Tom Mitchell, 908-722-6342, tmitchell83@yahoo.com
- Sussex – Karl Groggaard, 973-827-6013, kgrogaard@gmail.com
- Watchung Mountain - Tony Campasano, acampasano@comcast.net