

P.A.S.S.

Proficiency Award for Scout Skills

Skill Instruction Manual



Boy Scout Troop 497
Texas, MD

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Introduction

P.A.S.S. (Proficiency Award for Scout Skills) is a Troop 497 program for testing competency and proficiency in Scout skills. P.A.S.S. was created to recognize Scouts who accepted the challenge to improve their Scout skills so that they will be better teachers and trainers for the younger Scouts. Scouts first learn these skills from older Scouts as they progress through the ranks from Tenderfoot to First Class. The P.A.S.S. program provides an incentive for older Scouts to polish their skills and is just one of the requirements for joining the seniors.

This manual provides more detailed skill instruction for some of the Scout Skills tested in the P.A.S.S. test. The only section in this manual which you need to know, as it appears in the manual, is the section on Scout History. You will be asked questions verbatim from that section and you are expected to give the complete corresponding answers. The other sections are instructional only and you must demonstrate proficiency in the skill they cover. They supplement information on Scout skills found in the Boy Scout Handbook, Boy Scout Field Book, Merit Badge books, and other outdoor publications.

The last page of this manual is a copy of the sign off sheet for the P.A.S.S. test. That page defines the requirements of the tests.

General P.A.S.S. Instructions

1. Read the P.A.S.S. sign off sheet, located at the end of this manual, carefully to see what you must do for each requirement.
2. You must be ready to demonstrate that you not only know HOW to do each requirement, but that you are also PROFICIENT in doing it.
3. Study your Boy Scout Handbook and PRACTICE each requirement BEFORE you ask the P.A.S.S. counselor to test you.
4. It is not the counselor's job to teach you the requirements. BE PREPARED.
5. P.A.S.S. testing is best done on camping trips, when one or more counselors and the materials are available. PLAN AHEAD.
6. LASHINGS: It is very important that each lash be tight and correct. The counselors will provide ropes and the poles to lash.
7. COOKING:

It is essential that you practice cooking meals at home, so you have experience in planning the meal, buying the food, and how long it takes to cook different foods.

Whole meat is required, you cannot use ground beef

You must cook your P.A.S.S. meal on a patrol cooking camping trip, no other substitute. PLAN AHEAD.

Bring all food uncut and unprepared. Preparation is part of the time limit.

8. HIKING: The troop has a backpacking trip every year of at least 10 miles. It is recommended that you use this trip to fulfill this requirement.
9. FIRE BUILDING: The fire must be built using standard Boy Scout methods. A fire with just dried grass will not pass. You may use a grate or other methods to suspend the pot over the fire.
10. SCOUT HISTORY: The list of questions is in section 8 of this manual.
11. KNIFE AND AXE: The counselor will provide the materials for sharpening and an axe.

You supply the knife.
12. COMPASS: The compass game will be set up on selected camping trips and at other times.
13. Remember to PRACTICE and to BE PREPARED.

1. KNOTS

Tie the following knots using one length of rope in 60 seconds or less: Clove Hitch, Square Knot, Tautline Hitch, Sheet Bend, Bowline, and Two Half Hitches.

Contrary to the popular myth you DO NOT need to use special tricks or shortcuts to tie these knots in 60 seconds. Do you think about how you tie your shoelaces, or do you tie them without thinking? Could you tie your shoelaces blindfolded?

When you know these knots well enough you will be able to tie them without thinking about how to tie them. You should also be able to tie them with your eyes closed or on a dark night without a flashlight. It just takes a little practice. Keep a small rope in the car and practice while you are riding or practice while watching television. Soon you'll be tying these knots without taking your eyes from the TV screen!

This manual will describe an efficient way to tie each knot in the manner that the knot will be used. Practice tying the knots this way – if a knot should be tied around something then practice tying it around something. For example, the Tautline Hitch is normally tied around something like a grommet in a fly or a tent stake.

You should practice tying your knots so they do not have to be manipulated to take shape. When you finish tying the knot and pull it tight -- it should be done!

SQUARE KNOT:

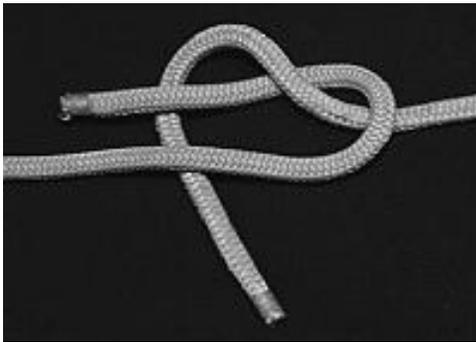
The Square knot is use for tying around objects such as a sail (a square knot is also known as the Reef knot and is used to tie up the excess sail cloth to a boom or yard when a sail is reefed). Today we use it for tying up packages, branches, or bundles of things. You can also tie two ends of a rope or two ropes together with the square knot though it won't hold unless it is

kept under constant tension. If the rope is loosened and then tensioned repeatedly the Square knot will come apart. For the P.A.S.S. requirement tie the two ends of the rope together – it's faster. Follow the instructions in the Scout Handbook for tying a Square knot. Remember "left over right – right over left".

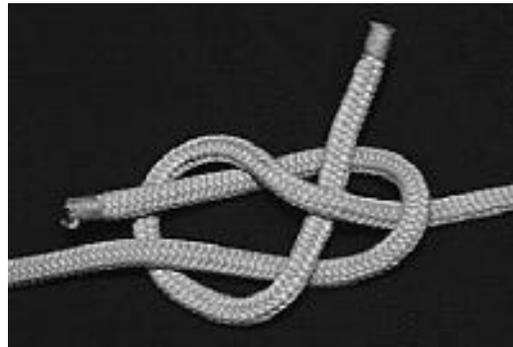
SHEET BEND:

The Sheet bend is used for tying two ropes together. It works especially well if one rope is larger than the other. The loop should be made in the larger rope.

For P.A.S.S. you can save some time by tying this knot after your Square Knot. Instead of taking the Square knot completely apart just pull one end out and tuck it under the bight to convert a Square Knot into a Sheet bend. It is faster for the test.



Square Knot with one end removed before reinserting the end under the bight.



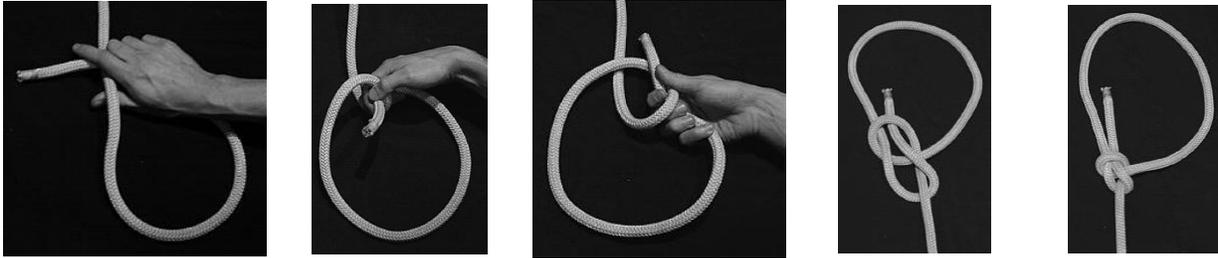
This is picture of what the finished knot looks like before pulling it tight.

BOWLINE:

The Bowline is used to tie a loop in the END of a piece of rope. There are numerous ways to tie the Bowline including the rabbit technique shown in the first series of photographs. We often use this method to teach new Scouts.

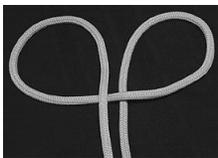


You can use this method, but it is faster if you learn to twist your wrist to make the loop with the end of the rope already properly inserted into the loop so all that is left is to bring the end around the standing part and back through the loop. The technique is illustrated in the photographs below, but this is best learned by having someone show you -- so ask! It is also the method used to tie a one-handed Bowline around you.



CLOVE HITCH:

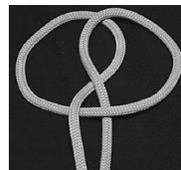
There are two common ways for tying the Clove hitch. The most common method is to wrap the rope around the post (practice by crossing one leg over the other and tie the hitch around your leg). This is also the slowest method but the only method that works if an end of the pole is not available. The second method, used when you can slip the knot over the end of the pole, is faster and recommended for P.A.S.S. because of its speed. Use this technique for the knot test and also for your square lashings. It is illustrated below.



Make two underhand loops



Lay the second loop on top of the first.



Place the loops over the end of your pole and pull tight. Use your thumb for P.A.S.S. it's very convenient!

TWO HALF HITCHES:

The Two Half hitches and the Tautline hitches are very similar and should be tied using the same technique. They can be tied one after the other for P.A.S.S. only taking the final loop off of the Two Half Hitch before starting on the Tautline Hitch.

The Two Half hitches is tied when you want to secure the rope and slide the hitch all the way to object. Keep the rope taught while you tie the knot and always go around the standing part of the rope in the same direction. You shouldn't think about which way to wrap the rope.



Throw the rope around your object – use your crossed leg for P.A.S.S. – it's convenient. Hold the standing part of the rope in your left hand with the three smaller fingers. Extend your index finger as shown in the photograph and make a loop around your finger with the free end of the rope.



Without releasing the standing part from your three fingers slide your hand back along the standing part and slip your index finger out of the loop. Make your second loop around your index finger in the same direction. (The rope points the same direction as your finger.) Pull tight and you are done!

TAUTLINE HITCH:

The only difference in tying the Tautline Hitch is to make two turns inside before making the final turn on the outside. Use the same technique with your index finger to help point the way.



2. LASHINGS

A. Lash a travois using 3 lengths of rope and three poles with two square lashes and one diagonal lash in 5 minutes or less. All three lashings must be correct, and the travois must be capable of supporting your Scoutmaster for at least one minute.

B. Using three poles and one length of rope, lash a tripod in less than 2 minutes. The lashing must be correct, and the tripod must be capable of supporting a 5 gallon container full of water.

The Scout handbook does a good job of providing instructions for lashings. You can also find additional information in the Pioneering Merit Badge book. However, there are two or three points worth mentioning.

Square Lashings:

It is much faster to make the initial Clove Hitch by forming the two overlapping loops and slipping the knot over the end of the stave (on the vertical member below your cross piece). It is described in the knots section of the manual. You will probably have to tie your finishing Clove Hitch using the wrap method but you will be near the end of the rope so it will be easier.

You can also use the Japanese Square Lashing which is quicker to make and only uses one knot. Talk to a Senior or knowledgeable adult if you need to learn this lashing since it is not in the handbook.

Tripod Lashing:

Elevate all three staves by putting them across another stick positioned below the point of the lashing. This will make it easier to get around the staves with the rope because you can wrap around the end without moving the staves. Don't let the staves get drawn close together as you make your initial wraps, or you won't have room for the fraps. Sit on them, hold them with your foot, or wedge small sticks between them to keep them apart.

3. *CAMPING*

By yourself, set up a troop Alps Mountaineering Taurus Outfitter tent correctly with all the necessary stakes in less than 7 minutes. The following items should be considered:

- position of the door
- terrain
- tent tautness
- weather

You must explain why you chose this location to pitch the tent. Some items which should be considered:

- a level area or one with only a slight slope
- away from any area that will become a stream if it rains
- tent openings facing other tents in the patrol or troop
- tent openings oriented correctly with the prevailing wind if strong winds are possible

Steps to pitch an Alps Mountaineering Taurus Outfitter Dome Tent

Steps to pitch an ALPS Mountaineering Dome Tent the Troop 497 way. These directions are for at least two people. You must adapt the directions for working alone:

1. Gather your tent, ground cloth, and 8 tent pegs.
2. Choose a suitable site that is relatively flat and where rainwater will not collect. Remove all objects on the ground under where the tent will be pitched that could poke holes in the tent floor, e.g., rocks and objects that will make it uncomfortable to sleep on such as sticks.
3. Stand where you want a door to be located (doors are on two sides of this tent) and open plastic ground cloth and orient it so long side is in front of you. You will be standing in the location of the vestibule so make sure you leave some room in front of the ground cloth for the vestibule.
4. Check one more time for objects under the ground cloth that could damage the tent or make it uncomfortable to sleep by rolling on top of the ground cloth.
5. Take the tent out of bag and unroll it away from you on top of the ground cloth. You should be standing in front of a door.
6. Take the tent fly and move it to one side of the tent while keeping it folded.
7. Unfold the tent. One door should be in front of you. If not, then rotate the tent so there is a door in front of you.
8. Put the tent and pole bags inside the tent so it won't blow away or get forgotten.

9. Stake down the four corners of the tent through the webbing loops and not through the rings.
10. Ensure ground cloth does not extend beyond the tent. Fold under if it does so rain won't get in between the ground cloth and the tent floor.
11. Remove the poles from their bag and put the tent pole bag in the tent so it won't blow away or get forgotten.



12. Unfold one tent pole, insert end into the pin at one corner, attach first two clips closest to pin to the pole. Ensure pin is still in the end of the pole.
13. Do the same for the second pole at the next tent corner.



14. Go to the corner on the opposite side of the tent where the top most pole is laying. You want to do the top pole first otherwise it is harder since you must push both poles up at the same time.



15. Push the pole towards the corner where it already connected to the tent pin so that it forms an arch and place the end over the pin near you. If the pole came out of the pin at the far end, then put the pin back in the end of the pole and start again.



16. Attach the first two clips closest to the pin to the pole - this will keep the pole upright.

17. Repeat previous two steps for the other pole.

18. Finish attaching all the clips from the bottom of the poles to the top of the dome. The top clip should clip on to the top most of the two poles near where they cross. Stand in the open tent doorways if necessary to reach the highest clips.

19. Grasp the fly from only the top edge and slide over tent so the zippers are over the doors. Unfold the fly

20. Attach the fly buckles in each corner in each corner of the tent

21. Stake only the top tab (see photo) on each vestibule such that vestibule can be zipped open and closed.



22. Stake the two side pullouts for ventilation. The cord should be attached to the tent with a bowline and have a taut line hitch on the stake end.

23. Open the vents at the top of the tent.



24. Attach the extra guide lines if windy or you expect strong winds during the trip.

Steps to take down and pack an Alps Mountaineering Taurus Outfitter Dome Tent

1. Empty the tent of all gear.
2. Use the tent bag to sweep all debris out of the tent.
3. Leave both tent doors completely unzipped to make it easier to set up the tent the next time.
4. Close the tent vents laying the pop up pieces flat.
5. Zip up the vestibule zippers if not already closed.
6. Unbuckle the fly from the four corners
7. Remove the vestibule stakes and the two stakes pulling out the sides of the tent – leave the rope and knots in place. Put the stakes together in a pile so they are easy to find later.

8. With a person at each vestibule, grasp the fly near the top of the vestibule zipper and slide the fly off the tent to one side and lay flat on the ground.

9. Straighten fly on the ground so there is rectangle in the middle.



10. Grasp the end of the vestibule triangles and fold over the rectangle so that you end up with a rectangle.

11. At the folds of the triangles, fold both ends of the fly to the center. Fold again so the rectangle is $\frac{1}{4}$ of its original size. Make sure the rope for side pull outs are visible on one end so you can determine how to roll the fly so the air comes out.



12. Open the tent doors COMPLETELY if not already completely open. This is to let air out as you roll the tent and to make it easier to set up. You will be able to stand in the tent to attach the clips when you set up the tent.

13. Unclip the tent from the poles.

14. Pull the top most pole from the pin at one end. Fold the tent pole once about in the middle. Then working with the two halves fold the tent pole at each successive section together. Do the same for the second pole and insert both poles into the pole bag. This method stretches the shock cord in the poles less and will make them last longer.

15. Unstake the four corners of the tent and place these 4 stakes with the other four stakes. You should have a total of 8 stakes. Find any missing stakes and return all 8 stakes to the stake buckets.



16. With a person at both doors, fold the tent in half by folding from both outside edges to the center. Fold once more so that the tent is $\frac{1}{4}$ of its original width.

17. Place the fly on top of the tent with the open end, the one with the cords, away from the end where you will start to roll so the trapped air will escape.



18. Put the tent poles in their bag on the edge of the tent and roll it very TIGHTLY. If any air gets trapped SLOWLY squeeze it out.
19. Slide the tent bag over the tent and secure it with the draw cord.



20. If time permits, turn the ground cloth over and let it dry. If time does not permit, fold up the ground cloth with the wet sides in contact with each other.

#6. COOKING:

By yourself, prepare and clean up a complete meal for 6 or more people consisting of no less than: one cooked meat, two cooked vegetables, baked bread, hot drink and a hot dessert. Everything must be completed in two hours or less. All cooking must be done on an open wood fire.

GENERAL GUIDELINES:

1. Your menu must be submitted to and approved by the PASS Master one week before the camping trip. Please be prepared to explain how you will prepare the food.
2. Your dinner guests (preferably your Patrol members) should contribute toward the cost of the food.
3. It is essential that you practice cooking your meal at home (even if you do it on a stove) so you have the experience in planning the meal, buying the food, and seeing how long it takes to cook different foods.
4. You may bring your own firewood to cook your meal. All fire building material must be natural, not processed wood. Remember that PASS candidates are allowed only 2 matches to start your fire.
5. Whole meat is required: beef, chicken, pork or fish. No ground beef may be used.
6. Bring all food uncut and unprepared. Preparation is part of the time limit.
7. All vegetables must be fresh and uncut.
8. Remember that spices are good!
9. You may use a powdered mix for your bread or rolls.
10. All items of the meal except dessert must be served together. The clock stops while you and your guests are eating. You may boil water for K.P. and have your dessert cooking during the meal period.

11. Fruits dipped in chocolate do NOT count as a hot dessert.
12. Your dinner guests must eat their dinner and a small portion should be set aside for the Evaluator.
13. All pots and utensils must be cleaned in the 3-pot method, the cooking area cleaned and trash disposed of. You are not required to wash your guests' dinner dishes and silverware.
14. A reminder: most Scouts fail because they do not control their fire. You cannot bake bread over a roaring fire.
15. Have fun!

7. FIRE BUILDING

Build a fire using natural materials (i.e., no paper, fire starters, cotton, etc.) using no more than 2 matches. With this fire, bring 8 oz. of water to a boil. This must be completed in 10 minutes or less.

When you are proficient in building a fire, you will be able to construct a fire and successfully light the fire on almost every attempt. Your most difficult challenges in building a fire are going to be in bad weather, especially rain and snow. Since you can choose the time and place for your test you can avoid taking the test in bad conditions.

There are different philosophies in building a fire and different techniques work best under different conditions. Here are some recommendations based on the conditions under which most P.A.S.S. fires are attempted. Not everyone will agree with these recommendations, but they have been proven successful in most every attempt taking this test.

Once you can build a fire quickly and properly, boiling the water is easy.

Mistake #1: Poor Tinder and kindling:

Here is where some of the most serious mistakes are made. Many Scouts will simply gather up some leaves and attempt to use them for tinder. Leaves generally don't make good tinder because they don't burn easily and take up too much volume. Once a leaf burns out it is not going to be able to be re-lit by blowing on it. They are also often not dry enough.

You should experiment with different types of tinder before you build your fire. Gather what you think is good tinder and try to light it with a match. Good tinder:

- lights quickly
- burns hot and with a large flame.

If your material doesn't pass this test -- go find something else for tinder. Don't waste your time trying to start a P.A.S.S. fire until you have reliable tinder. Some ideas for good tinder include the dry heads of some weeds and grasses, dry Pinecones, shavings from dry pine or fir branches, birch bark or other material with a heavy oil or pitch content. You can further dry some tinder by gently rubbing it against cotton pants or other material. You can also use very small dry, pine or fir twigs gathered in a tight bundle instead of tinder. One match should be able

to light a bundle of twigs if each twig is no larger than a matchstick. This works instead of tinder and has the advantage that if the flame goes out and the twigs have lit you can blow them back to flame.

You want kindling ranging from a matchstick in diameter to no more than ½ inch in diameter. Any stick larger will take too long to light and reach burning temperature for this test. For a longer lasting fire you will want larger pieces of wood. Have plenty of the matchstick size wood available – it lights quickly but burns rapidly.

Mistake #2: Never building a fire

Scouts often never actually build a fire they just attempt to light tinder and a few sticks. Believe it or not this is one of the most common errors made during the test. Scouts will bunch up some tinder, light a match to it, and then put on small sticks one at a time. This is not building a fire!

A fire requires heat, fuel, and oxygen. Take any one of these things away and your fire will go out. Provide them at the right time and you will have a fire.

BUILD your fire by placing some tinder down first. Then place the smallest twigs (less than a matchstick in size) next. Pack these close together so they are touching. Another common mistake is to place the wood too far apart. The wood needs to be close so it will heat up when the smaller pieces light and so that when a stick lights it will heat up adjacent wood. This is one of the reasons you want to build your complete fire before lighting the match. Once the smaller pieces start burning, they should be heating up and drying out the larger pieces so they catch on fire sooner. If you use the lean-to style of fire, and build it properly, you can light it and forget it. Your water will be boiling very soon.

Mistake #3: Adding wood too late:

You should put enough wood on early. Every time you put a piece of wood on the fire you take heat away from the pot and your water. The piece of wood absorbs some of the heat of the fire to raise its temperature to the burning point. If you have enough wood still in the fire don't put more on. Instead, rearrange the pot or the wood to concentrate the flame under the pot. Make the best use of the wood that you have already burning.

Mistake #4: Putting the water on too late:

The water should be over the wood before you light the fire. This way it is heating up as each larger size of wood burns. Also, you should make sure the pot stays in the flame. Keep it close to the fire and lower it as your fire starts to collapse. Use a technique to hold the pot that easily lets you raise or lower the pot. One technique is shown in the photographs below.

This photograph shows a collection of match size pine twigs; wood split from a pine branch to expose the dry inside of the branch; and pine branches about ½ inch in diameter.

You will need dry tinder in addition to this fuel for your fire.

This is a lean-to fire lay. The tinder is placed on the ground near the fire log. The branches are then leaned against the log with the smallest branches (match diameter) next to the tinder. Successively large diameter sticks are then leaned against the log.

This photograph and the one above show an excellent method for suspending the pot. A long stick with a notch or a crotch from a branch to hold the pot handle is cantilevered over the fire. A large log or a large rock holds down the end of the stick. A second log is placed between the end of the stick and the fire log. This log is moved closer to the fire to lower the pot or closer to the anchor to raise the pot. Don't rest the support stick on the lean-to log because this does not give you the ability easily raise or lower the pot.

The excessive smoke in the photograph is cause by wet fuel. It was raining shortly before this fire was lit. (It still boiled the water in less than 8 minutes!)



8. SCOUT HISTORY

Be able to answer 19 out of 20 questions pertaining to the history of the Boy Scouts of America. These questions are to be chosen at random by the certifying adult

To receive credit for the Scout History segment of the Scout Skill Proficiency Award, you must correctly answer at least 19 of 20 questions drawn from the following list of 50 questions. You are not responsible for information contained in braces, [...].

- Q: Who founded the Scouting movement?
A: Lord Robert Stephenson Smyth Baden-Powell of Gilwell [1857-1941]
- Q: Who founded Boy Scouting in America?
A: William D. Boyce [1858-1929, a Chicago publisher]
- Q: Who was the first Chief Scout Executive?
A: James E. West [1878-1948]
- Q: Who was the first Chief Scout?
A: Ernest Thompson Seton [1860-1946, naturalist and wildlife author]
- Q: What well-known American artist was art director of Boy's Life?
A: Norman Rockwell
- Q: Who was the first National Scout Commissioner?
A: Daniel Carter Beard [1850-1941, author and illustrator of books for boys]
- Q: Who was the first Eagle Scout of Troop 497?
A: Kenneth Rupar [presented by Walt Anderson in 1967]
- Q: Who is the Scoutmaster of Troop 497?
A: Ray Palmer
- Q: Who is the current Honorary President of the BSA?
A: The President of the United States, Donald Trump
- Q: Who is the Unknown Scout?
A: The young English scout who assisted William Boyce and then refused a reward, motivating Boyce to seek out information on Scouting and subsequently found the BSA
- Q: When is Boy Scout Week?
A: Early February, includes February 8, the anniversary of the founding of BSA
- Q: What was the year of the Good Turn by the Unknown Scout?
A: 1909 [in August]
- Q: When was the Boy Scouts of America incorporated?
A: February 8, 1910
- Q: When were the Scout Oath and Scout Law published?
A: 1911

Q: When was the first International Jamboree?

A: 1920

[For your information, International Jamborees have been held:

- | | | | |
|----------|------------------|-------------|--|
| 1. 1920 | England (London) | 11. 1963 | Greece |
| 2. 1924 | Denmark | 12. 1967 | United States (Farragut State Park, Idaho) |
| 3. 1929 | England | 13. 1971 | Japan |
| 4. 1933 | Hungary | 14. 1975 | Norway |
| 5. 1937 | Holland | 15. 1983 | Canada (a 1979 jamboree was scheduled for Iran, but was cancelled) |
| 6. 1947 | France | 16. 1987-88 | Australia |
| 7. 1951 | Austria | | |
| 8. 1955 | Canada | | |
| 9. 1957 | Great Britain | | |
| 10. 1959 | Philippines] | | |

Q: When was the first National Jamboree in the United States?

A: 1937

[For your information, National Jamborees have been held:

1. 1937 Washington, D.C. (originally scheduled for 1935, but postponed because of a polio epidemic)
2. 1950 Valley Forge, PA
3. 1953 Irvine Ranch, CA
4. 1957 Valley Forge, PA
5. 1960 Colorado Springs, CO.
4. 1964 Valley Forge, PA
7. 1969 Farragut State Park, Idaho
8. 1973 Moraine State Park, PA, and Farragut State Park, Idaho
9. 1977 Moraine State Park, PA
10. 1981 Fort A. P. Hill, VA
11. 1985 Fort A. P. Hill, VA
12. 1989 Fort A. P. Hill, VA]

Q: When was Troop 497 founded?

A: 1959

Q: When did Baden-Powell hold the first scout camp?

A: 1907 [July 29-August 9, an experiment with 21 boys]

Q: When was the first U.S. BSA camp?

A: 1910 [August 16-September 1 at Silver Bay, Lake George, NY]

Q: When did Lord Baden-Powell found Boy Scouts?

A: 1908

Q: Where was the first International Scout Jamboree?

A: London, England [1920]

- Q: Where was the first U.S. National Jamboree?
A: Washington, D.C. [1937]
- Q: Where did William Boyce encounter the Unknown Scout?
A: London, England [August, 1909]
- Q: Where was the BSA incorporated?
A: Washington, D.C. [1910]
- Q: Where Baden-Powell serve in the British Army and gain his scouting experience?
A: India and Africa
- Q: Where was the first scout camp led by Baden Powell?
A: Brownsea Island, England [July 29-August 9, 1907]
- Q: Where was the first U.S. Scout Camp?
A: Silver Bay, Lake George, NY [August 16-September 1, 1910]
- Q: What military exploit gained Baden-Powell world-wide fame?
A: The defense of Mafeking, South Africa, for 217 days in 1899-1900 against a Boer Army 10 times the size of his own force.
- Q: What is the title of the book Baden-Powell prepared for boy scouts?
A: Scouting for Boys [published March 1908]
- Q: What is the title of the American guide for Boy Scouts?
A: Official Boy Scout Handbook
- Q: What organization chartered the BSA?
A: The Congress of the United States [June 15, 1916]
- Q: What is the significance of the BSA charter?
A: By U.S. Law, only registered members are entitled to wear the uniform and insignia of the BSA
- Q: What title was granted to Baden Powell at the first jamboree?
A: Chief Scout of the World
- Q: How did the BSA Scout Oath differ from that written by Baden-Powell?
A: The oath differed in two ways. The phrase "duty to God and the King" was replaced by the phrase "duty to God and my country", and the phrase "to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight" was added. [The oath written by Baden-Powell was "On my honour I promise that I will do my best to do my duty to God and the King; to help other people at all times; to obey the Scout Law"]
- Q: How did the BSA Scout Law differ from that written by Baden-Powell?
A: The BSA Scout Law adds "Brave, Clean and Reverent" [The Scout Law written by Baden-Powell was "Trustworthiness, Loyalty, Helpfulness, Friendliness, Courtesy, Kindness, Obedience, Cheerfulness and Thrift"]

- Q: How often are world Jamborees held?
A: Every four years
- Q: What award honors the unknown Scout?
A: The Unknown Scout was awarded the second Silver Buffalo - the highest service award of BSA -and is commemorated by a bronze statue of a buffalo at the International Scout Training Center in Gilwell, England
- Q: What pre BSA youth organization was founded by Daniel Carter Beard?
A: Society of the Sons of Daniel Boone [1905]
- Q: What pre-BSA youth organization was founded by E. T. Seton?
A: Tribe of the Woodcraft Indians [their manual was The Birch Bark Roll]
- Q: What is the Order of the Arrow?
A: The national brotherhood of Scout Honor Campers. The first 25 members were inducted July 16, 1915, at Treasure Island, PA.
- Q: What appears on the grave of Lord Baden-Powell in Nyeri, Kenya?
A: The Scout track sign for "I have gone home"
- Q: What is the meaning of the two stars in the Scout Badge?
A: Truth and Knowledge
- Q: What are the Scout Motto and Scout Slogan?
A: Motto: Be Prepared
Slogan: Do a Good Turn daily
- Q: What is the significance of the Scout handshake?
A: As stated in the current handbook, the left hand is nearer the heart [the same reason wedding bands are worn on the ring finger of the left hand]. Traditionally, Baden-Powell instituted the practice based on the African custom of dropping their shield -- carried with the left hand to signify a peaceful greeting.
- Q: What is the shape of the Scout badge and what is the significance?
A: A trefoil or fleur-de-lis, frequently used to denote North in a compass. The shape signifies that scouting can point the right way through life.
- Q: What is the meaning of the Eagle and shield in the Scout Badge?
A: Freedom, and the willingness to defend it
- Q: What is the meaning of the three points of the Scout Badge?
A: Each point signifies one part of the Scout Oath
- Q: What does the shape of the scroll bearing the Scout Motto on the Scout Badge signify?
A: A reminder to be cheerful -- the shape is a smile
- Q: What does the knot at the base of the scroll on the Scout Badge signify?
A: A reminder to Do a Good Turn daily

Q: In what district and council is Troop 497 located?

A Dulaney District, Baltimore Area Council

12. *DIRECTION FINDING*

A. Without a compass, in the daytime, determine and lay out a line running North to South.

Use the watch method. It is fast – it can be done in less than a minute! The other methods take a lot of time and there is no guarantee the sun will still be out or that someone won't have knocked down your setup when you go to do the second part.

B. Without a compass, in the evening, determine and lay out a line running East to West.

Do this when the stars are out! That sounds like simple advice but there have been many a starry Friday evening on a camping trip and no one thinks to take this test. Come Saturday, when they want to take this test, it is cloudy and they can't take the test. The camping trip is over, and the opportunity is lost!

Proficiency Award for Scout Skills – P.A.S.S.

Applicant: _____ 3.

Telephone: _____

1. KNOTS

Tie the following knots using one length of rope in 60 seconds or less: Clove Hitch, Square Knot, Tautline Hitch, Sheet Bend, Bowline, and Two Half Hitches.

APPROVAL: _____

DATE/TIME: _____

APPROVAL: _____

DATE/TIME: _____

2. LASHINGS

A. Lash a travois using 3 lengths of rope and three poles with two square lashes and one diagonal lash in 5 minutes or less. All three lashings must be correct and the travois must be capable of supporting your Scoutmaster for at least one minute.

APPROVAL: _____

DATE/TIME: _____

APPROVAL: _____

DATE/TIME: _____

B. Using three poles and one length or rope, lash a tripod in less than 2 minutes. The lashing must be correct and the tripod must be capable of supporting a 5 gallon container full of water.

APPROVAL: _____

DATE/TIME: _____

APPROVAL: _____

DATE/TIME: _____

3. CAMPING

By yourself, set up a troop Alps Mountaineering tent correctly with all the necessary stakes in less than 7 minutes. The following items should be considered:

- position of the door
- tent tautness
- terrain
- weather

APPROVAL: _____

DATE/TIME: _____

APPROVAL: _____

DATE/TIME: _____

4. COOKING

By yourself, prepare and clean up a complete meal for your patrol (6 or more people) consisting of no less than: 1 cooked whole meat, 2 cooked fresh vegetables, baked bread, hot drink, and hot dessert. Everything must be completed in two hours or less. All cooking is to be done on an open fire.

APPROVAL: _____

DATE/TIME: _____

5. MAPPING

Using a topographical map of a given area, correctly orient the map and locate your position to within 100 feet of a point on the map. This must be done in 3 minutes or less.

APPROVAL: _____

DATE/TIME: _____

6. HIKING

Prepare for and take an overnight hike of at least ten miles in one day, carrying everything you will need on your back. Your itinerary and route must be approved in advance by the certifying adult.

APPROVAL: _____

DATE: _____

7. FIRE BUILDING

Build a fire using natural materials (i.e., no paper, fire starters, cotton, etc.) using no more than 2 matches. With this fire, bring 8 oz. of water to a boil. This must be completed in 10 minutes or less.

APPROVAL: _____

DATE/TIME: _____

APPROVAL: _____

DATE/TIME: _____

8. SCOUT HISTORY

Be able to answer 19 out of 20 questions pertaining to the history of the Boy Scouts of America. These questions are to be chosen at random by the certifying adult.

APPROVAL: _____

DATE: _____

9. FIRST AID

Correctly identify 3 First Aid situations given to you by the certifying adult. There may be no errors in treatment or action.

APPROVAL: _____

DATE: _____

10. KNIFE AND AXE

A. Demonstrate to the certifying adult the correct way to handle, use, and sharpen a knife.

APPROVAL: _____

DATE: _____

B. Demonstrate to the certifying adult the correct way to handle, use, and sharpen an axe.

APPROVAL: _____

DATE: _____

C. Whittle a Troop 497 neckerchief slide.

APPROVAL: _____

DATE: _____

11. COMPASS

Using the Scout Compass Game and a compass, complete three sets of directions, recording the final destination marker for each set.

Demonstrate your ability by not missing more than a grand total of two markers for all of the three sets.

APPROVAL: _____

DATE: _____

12. DIRECTION FINDING

A. Without a compass, in the daytime, determine and lay out a line running North to South.

APPROVAL: _____

DATE: _____

B. Without a compass, in the evening, determine and lay out a line running East to West.

APPROVAL: _____

DATE: _____

13. OATH AND LAW

Repeat the Scout Oath from memory and define the three parts of the Oath and their meaning.

Repeat the Scout Law from memory and define each of the twelve points.

APPROVAL: _____

DATE: _____

Completed All Requirements

APPROVAL: _____

DATE: _____

I certify that I completed all requirements to the best of my ability and according to the principles of the Scout Oath and Law.
