

ON MY HONOR, I PROMISE TO DO BY BEST...



BPSEA teaches traditional scouting, presenting it as it was practiced prior to the 1960s and following the original principles and guidelines laid down by Scouting's founder, Robert Baden-Powell.

Our aim is to promote good citizenship, discipline, self-reliance, loyalty, and useful life skills.

Most importantly, BPSEA welcomes everyone, male or female, regardless of age, religious beliefs, or sexual preference. We are committed to providing an appropriate alternative and community-oriented Scouting experience. We foster the development of Scouts in an environment of mutual respect and cooperation.

# BADEN-POWELL SERVICE ASSOCIATION

Traditional Scouting for Everyone



The Baden-Powell Service Association (BPSEA), US is in no way affiliated with the Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts of the USA or any other WOSM organization.





## TRADITIONAL SCOUTING



Formed in 2006, Baden-Powell Service Association (BPSA) is an independent and traditional style scouting association that perpetuates the principles and practices of scouting laid down by Robert Baden-Powell in 1907. Our aim is to promote good citizenship and wholesome physical, mental and spiritual development; and training in habits of observation, discipline, self-reliance, loyalty, and useful life skills.

BPSA offers a choice for those with curiosity, energy and independence of spirit. BPSA welcomes everyone - regardless of race, gender, sexual-orientation, faith (or no faith) or other differentiating factors. Our mission is to provide a positive learning environment within the context of democratic participation and social justice.

We foster the development of Scouts in an environment of mutual respect and cooperation.



## OPEN AND INCLUSIVE

Because men and women work together in the real world, doing the same sorts of jobs, so do Scouts in the BPSA.

Our group has four program sections, Otters (age 5-7), Timberwolves (age 8-10), Pathfinders (age 11-17) and the adult Rover program (age 18+).

Our program is completely volunteer run and focused on keeping the cost-barrier to participate in Scouting low for all families and participants. We have no full-time or part-time paid staff.

## CO-ED SCOUTING



BPSA is totally independent of, and not affiliated with, either The Boy Scouts of America or the Girls Scouts of the USA. We are not in competition with other American Scouting Associations, we are only their brothers and sisters.



The BPSA offers a Scouting program that is part of the larger traditional Scouting movement under the World Federation of Independent Scouts (WFIS) a traditional scouting movement across 44 countries.



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BPSA-US.org

## **Letter from BPSA Commissioner David Atchley**

I have been acting Chief Commissioner for the BPSA since early 2009. Before finding BPSA I had a long history in the Boy Scouts of America. I earned my Eagle in 1993. I started in the BSA program as a Tiger Cub, and after age 18 I served in a number of roles, including Assistant Program director and staff at 3 different summer camps, an Assistant Scoutmaster and as Unit Commissioner for inner-city kids. I later became a Den Leader and then Cubmaster for my oldest son's Cub Scout Pack.

I had always been conflicted over BSA National's membership policies and restrictions and the modernization of the program as it moved away from a focus on outdoor skills and public service. I felt that Scouting was such a positive and worth-while program in it's original form, that it should be open to everyone - regardless of beliefs or no-beliefs, gender, sexual-orientation or other factors. If Scouting was to truly be a world-wide movement, then it need to be inclusive of everyone, youth and adult. During my oldest son's 2nd year in Cub Scouts, I tried to implement a non-discrimination policy just for our local Pack. I took the idea to the local BSA Council and was told by a representative that if we did so they would revoke our Pack's charter. He then proceeded to tell me that because I was an atheist and my attempts to have a more inclusive Pack that I was not the kind of leader the Boy Scouts of America was looking for; and I should go find another organization with which to participate. I took his advice and resigned my membership.

In an attempt to protest the BSA's discriminatory policies, I sent in my Eagle badge and pin in 2008, along with a letter to BSA National expressing my concerns and sadness over their policies and program; and I asked to be taken off the National Eagle registry. Shortly after, I found the BPSA here in the US and decided to join and start a group.

At that time the BPSA had no youth active in the program and no real registered groups. When I took over as Commissioner in 2009 I committed myself to the task of building up the BPSA, its program and resources and working towards the goal of providing an alternative Scouting program that would inspire people to join, support its ideals and start new groups around the country. Scouting is first and foremost, a program for our youth; and the BPSA should focus its efforts and resources on helping to provide that program in local communities, towns and cities across the country. As Commissioner, I take a personal role and stake in these goals, making myself available directly to our volunteers, leaders and others interested in the program.

I am married and live with my wife, Angela Atchley and our 5 children (Vivian 3, Liza 5, Luke 6, Bella 11 and Jude 12). I work as a fulltime Software Engineer in St. Louis, MO.

Yours in Traditional Scouting,

David Atchley

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## About Baden-Powell Service Association

Baden-Powell Service Association (BPSA) was formed in the US in 2006 as an independent and traditional style Scouting Association. It perpetuates the principles and practices of Scouting laid down by Robert Baden-Powell in 1907 which had been developed and refined in Boy Scout Associations around the world for over 99 years. These principles are so fundamentally sound and the practices so adaptable that traditional scouting goes on developing and can never be dated or unsuited to any community. Our aim is to promote good citizenship and wholesome physical, mental and spiritual development; and training in habits of observation, discipline, self-reliance, loyalty, and useful skills.

BPSA is totally independent of, and not affiliated with, either The Boy Scouts of America or the Girls Scouts of the USA. We are members of the World Federation of Independent Scouts and as such are not in competition with other American Scouting Associations, we are only their brothers and sisters.

BPSA believes that everyone deserves a chance to participate in the movement which Baden-Powell started, and with that, we have crafted our policy of inclusion:

*BPSA offers a choice for those with curiosity, energy and independence of spirit. We are committed to providing an appropriate alternative and community-oriented Scouting experience. BPSA welcomes everyone - regardless of race, gender, sexual-orientation, faith (or no faith) or other differentiating factors. Our mission is to provide a positive learning environment within the context of democratic participation and social justice. We foster the development of Scouts in an environment of mutual respect and cooperation.*

The BPSA offers a Scouting program that is part of the larger traditional Scouting movement under the World Federation of Independent Scouts (WFIS). Our association aims to provide:

**A Traditional Scouting program** - a back to basics program, dedicated to the original aims and methods of Scouting developed by its founder in the context of outdoors skills and public service.

**An Open and Inclusive membership** - Scouting is a program that should be available to everyone, regardless of gender, race, religion (or none), sexual orientation or other differences.

**A co-ed Scouting experience** - Because men and women work together in the real world, doing the same sorts of jobs, so do Scouts in the BPSA.

**A program active in International Scouting** - through membership in WFIS, we are part of a traditional scouting movement across 44 countries, including 88 different scouting associations worldwide



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The Scouting movement encompasses a program for youth and adults aimed at:

- building character,
- good health,
- useful skills and
- teaching service over self
- and providing all the above in the context of nature and the out-of-doors

Our group has all four program sections, Otters (age 5-7), Timberwolves (age 8-10), Pathfinders (age 11-17) and the adult Rover program (age 18+).

Our program is completely volunteer run and focused on keeping the cost-barrier to participate in Scouting low for all families and participants. We have no full-time or part-time paid staff.

Our web site provides a number of resources for youth, adults, leaders and volunteers including handbooks, guides and links to various other program information online - all for free.

BPSA is run by a number of volunteers; both members and otherwise, who help write our handbooks, provide editing, enable communication through social media, email and phone; and generally try to connect with communities and families to promote our goal of providing an open and inclusive, yet traditional Scouting program.

## **BPSA Contact Information:**

Web Site: <http://www.bpsa-us.org>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/bpsa.us>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/BadenPowellSA> @BadenPowellSA

Email: [info@bpsa-us.org](mailto:info@bpsa-us.org)

Phone: (636) 544-3239 - Direct Line to Commissioner



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## **Press Kit Multimedia List**

### **Pictures**

*BPSA-Service.jpg*

The 10th Daniel Boone Group at our annual Good Turn event working with the residents at the local assisted living facility.

*BPSA-Scout-Group.jpg*

The 10th Daniel Boone BPSA Group. BPSA offers scouting for boys and girls ages in the Otter program (ages 5-7), Timberwolves (8-10), Pathfinders (11-17) as well as an adult Rover Program (17+).

*BPSA-Scout-Camp.jpg*

The 10th Daniel Boone campout, Pathfinders learning cooking techniques and Otters getting a taste of camping and the out-of-doors.

*BPSA-Otter-Scouts.jpg*

Otter Scouts from the 10th Daniel Boone during the program's St. Louis Serves day project cleaning 3 miles of trail along the Missouri River.

*BPSA-Service-Project.jpg*

The 10th Daniel Boone participating in their St. Louis Serves day project cleaning 3 miles of trail along the Missouri River.

### **Logos**

BPSA-logo-color.png

BPSA-logo-white.png

**Please send all press inquiries and follow up questions to:**

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