



Statement of Qualifications for Pine Tree Candidates

Pine Tree can be a challenging experience, not all Scouts are ready for it. For this reason, the Pine Tree Commission has established the following requirements for Pine Tree Candidates. We firmly believe that rigid adherence to the policies stated here will provide the greatest benefit for the candidates and their troops.

1. All Pine Tree Candidates **must be at least 12 years old** on the date that their Pine Tree course begins.
2. All Pine Tree Candidates must be at least **Second Class Rank**.
3. Pine Tree is a leadership training course. Candidates should be mature, self-motivated, and have a high degree of leadership potential and capacity of inspiration. They should be cooperative and have the ability to work as a team member with other Scouts they have never met.
4. While recognizing the high degree of motivation, the hard work, and the leadership ability of a Scout who has attained the Eagle Rank, the Commission feels that a troop will most benefit by sending candidates who are still striving toward this goal. Therefore, we discourage sending candidates who are Eagle Scouts in the absence of exceptional conditions.

Statement of Objectives

ON MY HONOR – On the front of each Pine Tree emblem is a small figure eight, and, on the first evening of Pine Tree, each Scout is told that this stands for the most important words in Scouting; the first eight words of the Scout Oath:

“On my Honor I will do my Best”

Pine Tree is a four-day, three-night training course designed for developing youth troop leaders by demonstrating the patrol method, team building, and teaching scout skills using the fundamentals of the EDGE Method, which are the basic ingredients needed in preparing scouts to lead others within their troops. While Pine Tree also teaches Scout skills and leadership theories, these are considered secondary in importance to the development of the scouts in Living the Scout Oath and Law. This course is designed to provide the necessary skills and tools for scouts to return to their troops with an inspired desire to help Scouting grow and to promote youth leadership within their unit.

A Note About the Uniform

Candidates must arrive to the course in full field uniform (Class A).

Right sleeve – American Flag required. Troop patrol patch allowed.

Left sleeve – Indian Nations Council shoulder strip required. Troop position patch allowed. Trained patch allowed.

Left sleeve - Pine Tree Troop number **141** (as provided) to be securely pinned / sewn over troop number.

Above left pocket – World Brotherhood Crest (2" above left pocket centered) required. Crest rings and youth knots allowed.

Left pocket: Rank patch is allowed.

Right pocket flap: OA lodge patch allowed.

Right pocket: Unadorned. This area is generally reserved for temporary patches that are not sewn on. Hanging patches shall be removed.

Official BSA shorts, ball cap, and socks. Candidates, at their discretion, may wear either a sturdy hiking boot with official scout socks or sturdy, comfortable shoes.

Rev 1/2026 mw

