

- These resources also provide guidance for services that are nonsectarian, so a chaplain's aide doesn't feel the need to fall back on his own religion for the content of the service.
- Unit leaders should be encouraged to discuss how they use chaplain's aides and share successful religious observances with other unit leaders.
- Close by sharing known upcoming classes for religious emblems offered by churches and other religious bodies in the district or in neighboring districts, so the unit leaders can give this information to their chaplain's aides for sharing with the other Scouts in the troop.
  - It can be helpful to have a religious emblems tab on the district website under which fliers promoting upcoming religious emblems classes can be posted.
  - Churches or other religious bodies in the district known to offer religious emblems can also be listed.

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## High Adventure

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### Time Available

10-30 minutes depending on the agenda format being used

### Learning Objectives

At the conclusion of this session, participants will be able to:

1. Understand BSA high-adventure opportunities.
2. Share ideas about local high-adventure options, including troop-planned outings.
3. Develop sample itineraries as local examples.

### Suggested Presenter(s)

A local unit leader or experienced high-adventure Scouter is ideal. The local camping committee may also be an excellent resource.

### Presentation Method

This content works best as an interactive discussion with initial content to start the conversation. Then leaders can add ideas and information relevant to the local area.

### BSA Reference Materials

- Scouting High Adventure Bases, [www.scouting.org/HighAdventure.aspx](http://www.scouting.org/HighAdventure.aspx)

### Community Resources and Materials

- Information or links to local high-adventure options or places that can facilitate a high-adventure activity
- Local parks and adventure guides
- Local outfitters and other resources as available

### Presentation Content

- The Boy Scouts of America offers four high-adventure bases with superb programming options for Scouts age 14 and above:
  - Florida Sea Base offers sailing, fishing, snorkeling, kayaking, and scuba diving.
  - Northern Tier provides canoeing, fishing, and winter expeditions.
- Each base has its own selection system for assigning available trek slots. The local council and each base can provide details about the selection process.
  - Upon selection, important details such as deposits, participant fees, health forms, and logistics will be sent to the tour leader contact.
  - Some bases will require extensive travel needs, which should be planned into the trip itinerary. Pay special attention to any items that may have travel restrictions, including most outdoor cooking systems, etc.
  - Each base requires specialized gear unique to the adventures offered. Some gear is also available for lending or rental. Inquire in advance about these options.
  - Note that additional physical requirements and training certifications may be required, such as weight limits and advanced first-aid certifications. Additional portions of the BSA Health and Medical Record may also be required, including a physician evaluation.
- Discuss local trips and opportunities for council contingents to attend these bases, as available.
- High adventure is also readily accessible through unit-planned events—sometimes called “roll your own” high adventure.
  - Trips may take advantage of local resources and options, often at very reasonable costs for a week or more of events and activities that the Scouts will remember for a lifetime.
  - The *Guide to Safe Scouting* and any BSA safety policies applicable to a planned activity still apply.

- Any tour operator, guide service, or outfitter should be carefully screened well in advance for safety practices, experience working with Scout-aged groups, and knowledge of BSA policies applicable to the activity.
- Also be sure to confirm any third-party service has appropriate insurance coverage in place prior to planning any excursion, and confirm that the insurance information is still current at the time of the trip or event.
- “Roll your own” adventures can include a wide variety of experiences, from traditional outdoor programs like backpacking, climbing, canoeing, or whitewater to specialized experiences supporting interests in astronomy, aviation, Indian lore, metalworking, or any number of other pursuits.
- For high-adventure trips of a week or more, Scouts can take advantage of many opportunities farther from home than a typical weekend event. They can often integrate several different adventure themes into a trip, if desired.
- Discuss local high-adventure options within range of the district. Include nearby council facilities as well as opportunities that may be up to two or three days of travel away.
- As an option, after discussing and potentially sharing itineraries from prior high-adventure trips, including “roll your own” excursions that units have pursued, break the roundtable into small groups to plan a sample weeklong skeleton itinerary going in different directions from the local district. This can demonstrate the wide variety of interests and opportunities available to local units.

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## Historic Trails

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### Time Available

10-30 minutes depending on the agenda format being used

### Learning Objectives

At the conclusion of this session, participants will be able to:

- Understand why Scouts hike historic trails.
- Identify sources for local and national historic trails.
- Understand the difference between the BSA Historic Trail Award and 50-Miler Award, and “normal” historic trails.
- Organize and lead a hike safely.
- Create a historic trail if there aren’t any local trails.

### Suggested Presenter(s)

A Scouter who has hiked historic trails and knows about local trails is an ideal presenter. The presenter should be able to discuss how hiking relates to Boy Scout advancement programs and trail safety.

### Presentation Method

The presentation should include a list of historic trails located in the local council or nearby councils. The location, length, theme, and degree of difficulty of each trail should be described. Printed scans of available trail patches to show participants may improve interest level. Discuss the BSA Historic Trail Award and how it differs from a historic trail patch. Discuss ideas for a new historic trail, and considerations involved in creating one.

### BSA Reference Materials

- Local council historic trail list and award requirements
- BSA-approved historic trails state-by-state list
- National Park Service—National Trails System, [www.nps.gov/nts/](http://www.nps.gov/nts/)
- BSA Historic Trail Award, [www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/34408.pdf](http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/34408.pdf)
- BSA 50-Miler Award, [www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/430-067\\_WB.pdf](http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/430-067_WB.pdf)

### Community Resources and Materials

- Historical society list of significant local places
- Schedule of local heritage events.
- Local “volksmarch” groups dedicated to hiking as a public fitness event.

### Presentation Content

- Physical fitness and citizenship development are two of the three aims of Scouting. Outdoor programs and advancement are two of the eight methods of Scouting. Hiking historic trails achieves each of these aims and methods.
- Hiking can be an exciting component of a well-rounded outdoor program when properly planned and executed. It can improve a Scout’s stamina and physical fitness. Scouts will learn local or national history in the process of hiking historic trails.
- Boy Scouts must complete a number of patrol or troop activities—which can include historic trail hikes—to earn the Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class ranks. Trails of increasing length can help to ease younger Scouts into the joys of hiking without overwhelming them.