

Pledge Commitment

We, _____, pledge to adopt _____ for a period of
Pack Number School Name
one school year, beginning _____. We will fulfill our commitment by completing a
Month/Year
minimum of one volunteer service project each semester. 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 the school and to the spirit of community between our Scouts and our adopted school.

Pledged on this date: _____

Cubmaster School Principal District Executive

ADOPT-A-SCHOOL RECOGNITION CRITERIA

Pack Number _____ District: _____
Cubmaster Name: _____ Email: _____

- ☐ Registered unit online at www.ocbsa.info/adoptaschool and recorded completion
- ☐ Encouraged involvement from affiliated Troop
- ☐ Hosted one school presentation (see suggestions)
- ☐ Complete requirements for both Fall and Spring Semesters:

Fall Semester

Spring Semester

- ☐ **Service Project**
Cubs Participated* # _____ % _____
Project Description:

- ☐ **Recruitment**
 - ☐ Attend Fall Recruiting Training
 - ☐ Conduct In-School Rally (i.e. Boy Talk)
 - ☐ Conduct a Sign-up Night at the school
- ☐ **Develop Relationship with the School**
 - ☐ Met with Principal
 - ☐ PTO/PTA presentation
- ☐ **Service Project**
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*Minimum 50% of registered Cub Scouts participated.



We all know Scouting is a strong and vibrant force in communities across the nation. Our Scouts are eager to serve in countless capacities, whether through simple daily turns or large-scale Eagle projects. Through the Adopt-A-School program, participating Scouts partner with school administrators to offer volunteer services that meet their school’s needs. The Adopt-A-School program is the perfect way for packs, troops, and crews to make a positive impact, while also fostering relationships with schools in their communities.

Doing service projects is one way that Scouts keep their promise "to help other people."

BSA Adopt-A-School is a project designed to begin to proactively address our Community/School Relationships. It truly is a win/win situation for both Scouting and our schools.



Why Participate in Adopt-A-School

- Adopt-A-School provides a lasting bond between Scouts and their immediate community and between Scouting and the community as a whole.
- Since the recommended commitment spans one year, units may also count Adopt-A-School service hours toward the Journey to Excellence program.
- When Scouts serve their schools, their Scouting experience is positively intertwined with their school, thus strengthening the commitment to both – all while helping to meet the needs of local schools.

How to Participate in Adopt-A-School

- Engage the contact person with the strongest existing connection to the school to speak with the principal who may involve teachers and the PTO/PTA.
- Ask what your school’s specific service needs are first, and then look at the sample projects listed below.
- Commit at least a year of service to the school to help build strong, sustained bonds.
- Chronicle progress and success by capturing photos of service projects throughout the year to highlight the progress of Adopt-A-School efforts and share experiences with the community to reinforce the positive impact of Scouting.

Let’s Get Started

- Register unit online at www.ocbsa.info/adoptaschool.
- Meet with principal and secure signatures on pledge commitment card.
- Conduct planning meeting to achieve recognition criteria.
- Record progress at www.ocbsa.info/adoptaschool.
- Celebrate success with School at an appropriate event.

School-wide Presentation Ideas

Too many times, Scouting looks at schools as a means for recruitment only. Scouting has so much to offer that should be shared. Here are a few ideas that Scouting can provide to help supplement education programs:

- Bicycle Safety
- Cyber Chip
- Flag Etiquette
- Youth Protection (Child Abuse, Bullying)
- Demonstrations in Outdoor Cooking and Camping
- Workforce Development
- Leadership Education
- Respect for Natural Resources



Adopt-A-School illustrates just one of the many ways Scouts can partner with the Orange County Department of Education *One Billion Acts of Kindness* campaign. Go to www.ocbsa.org/kind for more information.



Patch

Recognition

School	Certificate of Participation
Pack	Unit Ribbon
Cub Scouts	Participation patches will be available for purchase at the Scout Shop.

Additional resources available at:
<http://adoptaschool.scouting.org>
www.ocbsa.org/adoptaschool

Orange County Council, BSA
www.ocbsa.org
714-546-4990

Service Project Ideas

Here are a few project ideas to get started, however the priority remains to let your school’s specific needs determine how we serve. Be creative in responding to your school and community needs.

Beautify the school grounds – Scouts can help clean up and beautify the school grounds by coordinating a project focused on picking up debris or planting flowers. Other ideas could include turning an empty lot into a community garden or painting a mural on a lackluster wall.

Support school athletics – Scouts can show their school spirit by supporting the school’s sports teams! Consider constructing bat and helmet racks for your school’s baseball/softball teams or helping to run concession stands at football games.

Help out with building improvements – Depending on the age of your school, some buildings might need a refresher here and there. That’s where Scouts can help with painting projects, rebuilding benches and constructing fences.

Coordinate a Giving Tree project – Scouts can encourage community donations to a giving tree project that gathers gently used clothes, school supplies or toys to be donated to those in need. If a project is already in place, Scouts can assist with gift wrapping and getting the word out in their communities.

Say “thank you” during Teacher Appreciation Week – Host a special teacher lunch or breakfast during Teacher Appreciation week or consider refreshing the teacher’s lounge with a fresh coat of paint. Of course, a school-wide thank-you card project is always a great option as well.

FAQ

What is the time commitment for the unit?
We request a year’s commitment, but our hope is to build strong, sustained school relationships.

How much time is the unit expected to give?
Your pledge would be to complete the recognition criteria.

What commitment is expected from the school?
We expect school representatives to be cooperative in identifying their needs and in helping to outline the projects that will best satisfy those needs.

What do we expect the Scouts to be doing?
Projects must be age appropriate. Please refer to Ideas listed for examples

Who do you expect to make the initial contact?
We recommend that your contact person be the person who has the strongest school connection.

Lend a hand for school festivals – Scouts can also serve the school during various carnivals throughout the school year. Whether Scouts host a booth or help with set-up and clean up, schools always appreciate the extra help during these busy times.

Organize a book and magazine drive – Scouts can consider hosting a book drive on the school’s behalf by collected items that benefit the school library and teacher’s classrooms.

School clean up – No matter the school event, Scouts can always volunteer to help with clean-up afterward! Ask your school for a calendar of events to have an idea of when you can lend a hand.

Go green! – Scouts can assist with the school’s green efforts by organizing a waste reduction or recycling program if one is not already in place.

Promote literacy programs – Older Scouts can consider reading at elementary schools or hosting tutoring sessions to promote the school’s existing literacy programs or coordinate their own efforts!

Organize a food drive – Similar to a book drive, Scouts can host a food drive to gather snacks, canned food, and other non-perishables to benefit school events, classrooms and the cafeteria.

Lead Flag Ceremonies – Scouts can conduct patriotic ceremonies at the start of the school day, during assemblies, at PTO/PTA meetings, etc. to promote citizenship and American heritage.

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

We would encourage you to contact the principal first.

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?

There are many ways to approach this situation, please contact your Membership District Executive so that they may assist you in building a successful relationship with your school.