



# SECTION OVERVIEW

64th Brandywine Baden-Powell Service Association

## OVERVIEW

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The Baden-Powell Service Association co-ed program is divided into four Sections starting at age 5 and carrying through into adulthood. A fifth section has recently been added aimed at younger siblings not yet old enough to join the core Sections. This document provides an overview of each section.

## CHIPMUNKS (AGES 3-4) (UNOFFICIAL)

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The Chipmunk section is composed of the little brothers and sisters that are not yet 5, but tag along on some of our activities. Be warned, these scouts are incredibly cute and clever, and with all of their exposure to scouting, they will be superb Otters. The Chipmunk section is known as the Pile, and is sub-divided into Bumps. Chipmunks have their own scout sign (right hand by right cheek; fingers folded over into palm). We value our families and all of the energy and skill they bring with them. We want every family member to be involved in scouting.



## OTTERS (AGES 5-7)

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The Otter program serves as an excellent introduction to Traditional Scouting for younger children. Their motto is “Busy and Bright.” The Otters are the youngest section in our Association with children joining at the age of 5 years and going to the Timberwolf program at the age of 8. The Otter Section is referred to as a “Raft” (much like the Timberwolf “Pack”) and the smaller units within the Raft are referred to as “Dens”; and both boys or girls may join (with the ideal number being 6–8 per Den). Otters learn useful family skills, community skills, and learn to play safely together while introducing them to the concepts of Scouting and preparing them for the Timberwolf program.



## TIMBERWOLVES (AGES 8-10)

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The Timberwolf section is open to boys and girls ages 8–10. The Timberwolf Section is referred to as a “Pack” (much like the Otter “Raft” or Pathfinder “Troop”) and the smaller units within the Pack are known as “Sixes,” and both boys or girls may join (with the ideal number being 6–8 per Six).

The Timberwolf Pack will meet as a unit at least once a month (not counting outdoor activities and community service outings), and be led by the Pack Leader or Cubmaster (Akela) with help from the Assistant Pack Leaders. Each Six should be led by a “Sixer” and a “Secunder” selected by Akela from the Timberwolves within that Six. The Sixer helps lead his or her Six during Six activities, and may also assist in training the less-experienced members. At the Pack Meetings, the Timberwolves can, after the opening ceremony, announcements, etc., break out into their smaller units (Sixes) to work on whatever it is they’re learning at the time.



## PATHFINDERS (AGES 11-17)

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The BPSA’s Scout program is known as Pathfinders. This section is open to boys and girls beginning at age 11 and going through age 17 (grades 6 through 12). The emphasis will be in training through hands-on, outdoor activities such as camping, hiking, canoeing, and backpacking, as well as community-service projects. Pathfinders are organized into Troops that operate in Patrols of 6 to 8 members, led by a (youth) Patrol Leader who shares responsibility with an adult leader (called the Scoutmaster) for discipline, activity planning, and training the less-experienced members.

The Pathfinder Troop should meet as a unit once per month along with the rest of the Scout Group (not counting outdoor excursions and community service outings), and be led by the Troop Leader (Scoutmaster) with help from the Assistant Scoutmaster (these should be of the opposite sex if the Troop is co-ed). At the Troop Meetings, the Pathfinders are encouraged, after the opening ceremony, announcements, etc., to break out into their smaller units (Patrols) to work on whatever it is they're learning at the time or to plan their next outing. Patrols should also meet separately once or twice per month, separate from the Troop meeting. All Pathfinder meetings (Troop or individual Patrols) should be done with as minimal adult interference or interaction as possible. The adult Scoutmasters are there to supervise, but not to lead, the Pathfinder Scouts.



## **ROVERS (AGES 18+)**

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Rovers are the senior branch of Baden-Powell Scouting, intended for young men and women ages 18 and up who wish to remain uniformed members of a section. As Robert Baden-Powell originally intended, there is no upper age limit. Rovers are organized into self-governing Crews as part of an overall Scout Group. The Rover motto is simply "Service," and it is put into practice both in the Group and the community. All BPSA section leaders are required to be registered as Rovers to provide them with a more solid background in Scouting.

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

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### ***Do my kids need to start as Otters? What if they are older?***

New Scouts will start at the age appropriate Section.

### ***How strict are you with the ages? If my eight year old would like to be an Otter is that ok?***

Yes. In general, we have a +/- 1 year tolerance on the age ranges. We want Scouts and parents to feel comfortable in the program.