

Letter to Scouts and Parent Regarding Patch Placement on the Scout Shirt & Sash

Scouts and adult leaders:

If you still have patches to sew on your tan Scout shirt then see the attached PDF file and the pictures embedded below. Please do your best to have the patches correctly placed and attached to your tan Scout shirt. You don't have to be a perfect tailor, just do your best to sew them on straight. You may find it helpful to hold down the patch with masking tape while you sew it in place, then rip off the tape once you're done. Parents: take a gamble and have your son do the hand or machine sewing...just give him some guidance.

By the way, I learned a couple new things while gathering this information today, so don't feel bad if you have something in the wrong place. Just carefully remove the misplaced patch and sew it on in the correct place.

Here's where things go on the Scout shirt and the merit badge sash:

LEFT SLEEVE (FROM TOP OF SLEEVE TO BOTTOM):

- Council strip (at top of left shoulder)
- Troop 414 patch
- Leadership position patch
- Trained patch (if you've earned it)

IF YOU HAVE THE NEW SCOUT SHIRT then the patch order is a bit different for the LEFT SLEEVE:

- SHAC Council strip (at top of left shoulder)
- Troop 414 patch (above pocket)
- Trained patch (on sleeve pocket flap)
- Leadership position patch (on sleeve pocket)

RIGHT SLEEVE (FROM TOP OF SLEEVE TO BOTTOM):

- American flag patch (at top of right shoulder)
- Patrol patch
- Quality Unit patch

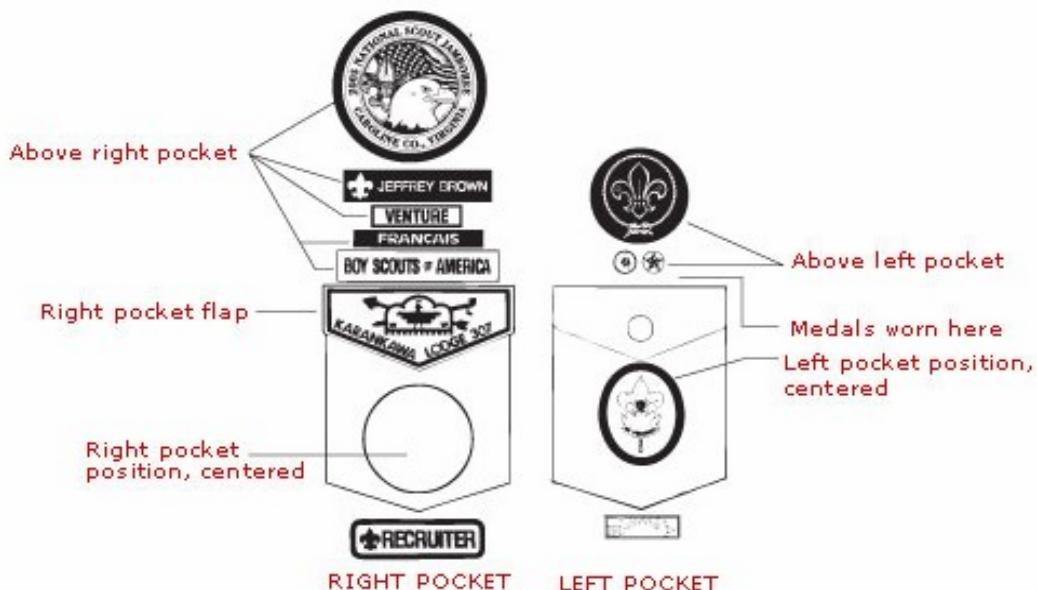
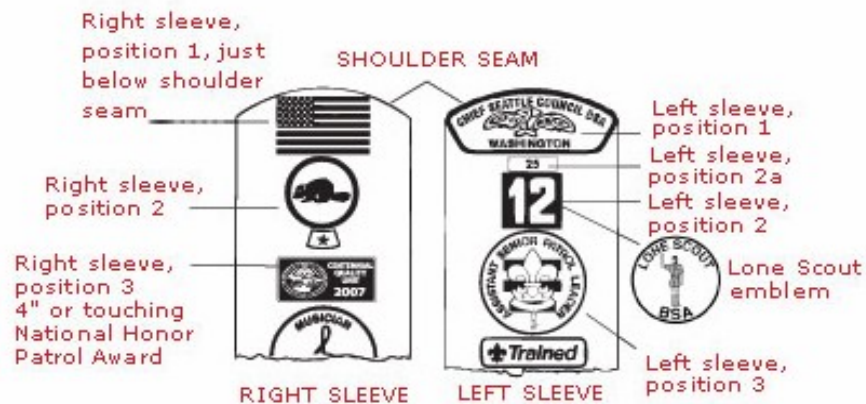
LEFT POCKET:

- Webelos Arrow of Light patch or pin below pocket
- Rank patch on center of pocket (only the HIGHEST rank patch earned to date may be worn on the shirt)
- Religious square knot patch and/or any other earned Scouting "knots" immediately above the pocket
- BSA-related medals and BSA religious program medals above the square knot patches
- Year/Service Stars also above the square knots patch(es)
- World Crest patch above the service stars

RIGHT POCKET:

- Recruiter patch (if you earned it) goes below the pocket
- OA Lodge insignia patch goes on pocket flap
- One award or activity "do-dad" may hang from pocket flap button
- One summer camp, Camporee, or other BSA event patch may be sewn to the pocket center or hang from the pocket flap button
- "Boy Scouts of America" strip/patch sits immediately above pocket
- Name tag (we don't have these but are talking about it) goes above BSA strip

Leave some room above and below the patches as there are smaller patches that go around a few of them (e.g. National Honor Patrol Award patch sits against the patrol patch and the new 1920-2010 BSA Anniversary patch that fits around the purple World Crest patch).



MERIT BADGE SASH:

There have been some questions about what exactly can go on the dark green merit badge sash. Here are the "official" answers from the BSA web site (<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/Media/InsigniaGuide/03.aspx>): Members may wear only temporary patches (no badges of rank) on the back of the merit badge sash. Members may wear only one merit badge sash at a time. A merit badge sash is never worn on the belt.

- **FRONT:** Only merit badges (3 per row, from side to side, any order), start near the top (shoulder area) of the sash and add them by row down the sash -- see the pictures below.
- **BACK:** "Temporary", BSA-related patches such as summer camp patches, OA patches, Mile Swim patch, and patches from special places visited as part of a Scouting activity. As far as I know it is OK to put the Totin Chip, Fireman's Chit, and Paul Bunyan Woodsman Award patches on the back of the sash. **Additional merit badges, old service star pins, and earlier-earned rank patches do NOT go on the back of the sash.**

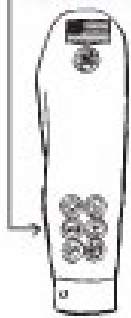
A FEW "NOTES" regarding the merit badge sash:

- The merit badge sash is worn ONLY to formal events/occasions, is never hung from the belt, is never worn along with the OA sash, and only ONE merit badge sash is worn (never two...for those high achievers that earn so many merit badges they won't fit on one sash...which I hope you will all be!).
- Here's what one website said: "The key is that the sash physically gets in the way of doing anything except looking good...therefore, it should only be worn during those times in which your role is purely 'one in which you're looking good' and not doing a lot of physical exertion. Flag details and color guards are NOT 'special occasions' since the sash tends to fall or slip off at the most inappropriate times." If your sash stays on well then I don't personally see a problem wearing it for a flag ceremony at a formal event such as a Court of Honor.
- Do not wear your sash at troop meetings, campouts, training classes, or Scoutmaster Conferences.
- Where will you usually wear the sash: formal events such as a Court of Honor, Scouting banquet, awards dinner, Council ceremony or sit-down event, Board of Review, Scout Sunday, or any other time your Scoutmaster recommends wearing it.
- If a Scout only has earned fewer than 7 merit badges then those six **may** go above the cuff of the right sleeve of a long-sleeved tan Class-A Scout shirt. Once the seventh merit badge is earned **then all** of the merit badges must be transferred to a merit badge sash.

Merit badge sash



Right sleeve,
position 4,
above cuff



Varsity letter may be
worn on sash as shown.



If you have not yet bought a merit badge sash from the Scout store I recommend you purchase one that is a bit large for him. Then unstitch it at the joined ends at the waist end, fold and iron back each end a bit to shorten the overall sash length (do not cut off the folded back ends, just tack them in place) , then re-sew the ends together. As your son grows taller you can then rip the stitching holding the waist-end together, unfold the extra ends, and re-sew the ends together so it's back to its full length as originally purchased. That's easier than removing all the patches he will have earned and sewing them onto a new, longer sash at a later date!

If you have any questions on patch placement please call, text, or email me.

Well, I think that about covers it! Thanks for hanging there and reading all of this. I hope you found it helpful. See you all at Court of Honor this coming Monday evening!

Scoutmaster Byrne