

Building Evidence in Scouting Together



Scoutmaster Email Script

Hello Troop Volunteers, Parents, and Scouts:

I have some great news! Our troop has been selected to participate in the BSA BEST Study, a national research project focused on how adult practice fosters positive development in Scouts. Between now and April 2020, our troop's Scouts, Assistant Scoutmasters, and I will be asked to complete up to three online surveys about our experiences in Scouts BSA.

Here are links to a brief video introduction to the study (**featuring Chief Scout Executive Mike Surbaugh**) and Bryan on Scouting's blog featuring the study:

- **Video introduction to the study:** <https://vimeo.com/350764165>
- **Bryan on Scouting post about the study:**
<https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2019/02/13/bsa-best-study/>

I'll be sharing more information with you at our next troop meeting so you can decide if you want to participate, and you may also find general information about the study by visiting the study website at www.bsabeststudy.org or contacting the study team at yourvoice@bsabeststudy.org or 1-888-309-1556 (option 1).

Yours in Scouting,

[Your name here]

This study has been approved by the Montclair State University Institutional Review Board #17-18-1105.



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Scoutmaster Talking Points

INSTRUCTIONS: Scoutmasters, please use the talking points below to discuss the study with your troop.

- Our troop has been selected to participate in a national research study about Scouts BSA, called the Building Evidence in Scouting Together (BEST) Study.
- The BSA BEST Study is a collaboration between BSA, the Institute for Research on Youth Thriving and Evaluation at Montclair State University, and the American Institutes for Research.
- The study team hopes our troop will participate in the study. We need at least 5 Scouts who want to volunteer with me so that our troop can participate in the study. Assistant Scoutmasters are also invited to volunteer.
- Between now and April 2020, those of us who volunteer to participate will be asked to complete online surveys about our experiences in Scouting.
- The information we share in surveys will be kept confidential.
- Our participation will help make Scouting better for everyone; BSA will use the study findings to improve the Scouts BSA program.
- We can each earn a 3-part patch; we get a part for each survey we complete (a picture of the patch can be found at the top of the previous page, the flyer, and the FAQ document).
- We can also earn up to \$100 in e-gift cards to the National Scout Shop for our troop.
- This is a special opportunity to share our ideas and experiences—only a small percentage of troops have been invited to participate in this study.
- Let me know if you are interested in participating and I will register our troop members.

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