Session Three
Summary and Closing

Time Allowed
20 minutes

Teaching Objectives

- Review the eight methods of Scouting in light of what participants have learned during Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster Leader Specific Training.
- Model an appropriate recognition ceremony and use it to acknowledge the accomplishment of participants completing Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster Leader Specific Training.
- Bring Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster Leader Specific Training to a meaningful conclusion.

Materials Needed

- The Scoutmaster Handbook, No. 33009C
- Materials for a recognition ceremony:
  - Twelve candles representing the points of the Scout Law, set in a small log or in other candle holders
  - Three candles to represent the three parts of the Scout Oath

Recommended Facility Layout

Session meeting area. Each participant should have a comfortable place to sit, take notes, and organize written materials. The setting most often consists of tables, each accommodating six to eight participants forming a patrol, and enough chairs for all participants.
To set the scene for the recognition ceremony, arrange the candles on a table at the front of the room. The American flag can be moved to the side of the table. If possible, lower the lights at the beginning of the ceremony.

**Delivery Method**

- Instructor-led discussion, recognition ceremony, and training session conclusion

**Presentation Procedure**

Remind participants that Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster Leader Specific Training has explored many aspects of the eight methods of Scouting. As you write the methods on a flip chart or chalkboard, invite participants to suggest the most important messages that Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster Leader Specific Training has presented about each method. Include those on the flip chart, along with any other points you feel should be highlighted as the training comes to a close.

**The Methods of Scouting**

1. The Ideals
2. The Patrol Method
3. The Outdoors
4. Advancement
5. Association With Adults
6. Personal Growth
7. Leadership Development
8. The Uniform

**Discussion of Recognition Ceremonies**

Lead a discussion of the importance of recognition ceremonies in the Boy Scouts of America. Touch on these important points:

- Courts of honor recognizing advancement may be the most common recognition ceremony, taking place when boys have completed the requirements for badges of rank. Ceremonies can also honor Scouts for other achievements—completion of significant Scouting challenges, the acceptance of leadership roles in the troop, the successful finish of training programs (including Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster Leader Specific Training).
• An effective recognition ceremony provides a tremendous amount of positive reinforcement, acknowledging the importance of a Scout’s achievement and encouraging him to continue his quest to become the best possible Scout he can be.

• To gain the most from a ceremony, plan it as carefully as you would any other aspect of a troop program. Involve boy leaders in planning and in carrying out the ceremony; it is important for boys being acknowledged to receive recognition both from adult leaders and from the boy leaders of the troop. Among the elements of a ceremony that should be included in the planning stage are the ways in which those conducting the ceremony will:
  — Set the scene.
  — Make the ceremony meaningful.
  — Keep it simple.
  — Involve the boy leaders of the troop.

Keeping that in mind, invite participants to join in a Scout ceremony typical of those that troops can use. Explain that the ceremony that is about to begin will serve several purposes:

• It will present participants with a model of an appropriate recognition ceremony. Based on this model, they can help the boy leaders of their own troops develop worthwhile ceremonies.

• This ceremony will acknowledge the accomplishment of participants completing Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster Leader Specific Training. By receiving positive reinforcement for a job well done, they will better understand why it is important to provide that kind of reinforcement to the Scouts in their troops. They will also have a sense of achievement and confidence as they embark on their own journeys as Scout leaders.

Instructors’ Note

Instructors are welcome to incorporate a few of their own favorite elements to enrich the ceremony. However, keep the focus on having a simple, effective ceremony that participants can easily recreate in their own troop settings.

The ceremony can best be conducted by two instructors. (If a training course has had a single instructor, it may be possible to involve an additional adult—another experienced Scoutmaster, for example—for the sake of the ceremony.) During the ceremony, one instructor serves as Scoutmaster; the second instructor takes the role of the troop’s senior patrol leader.
Senior patrol leader: “I’m pleased to welcome you all to this Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster Leader Specific Training recognition ceremony. Would all candidates for this training please stand?”

Instructors’ Note

If a group is small, participants can be invited to form a semicircle in front of the table, or directed to arrange themselves in some other formation appropriate to the event. If a group is sufficiently large that such arrangements would be unwieldy, each patrol can send a representative to join the formation at the table. In that case, the formation should be situated so that those remaining in their seats (as would be the case with parents at a court of honor) have an unobstructed view of the proceedings.

Senior patrol leader: “We are honored to have this opportunity to recognize your achievement in completing Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster Leader Specific Training. You have done well, learning much about what it means to be a Scoutmaster and how you can provide your troop with effective leadership.”

Scoutmaster: “I also want to congratulate you on a job well done. At moments like this, when one phase of your Scouting life is coming to a close and a new phase is about to begin, it is important to remember what Scouting is all about.

“These candles represent the twelve points of the Scout Law. As I light them, would you please join me in reciting the Scout Law?”

Instructors’ Note

As the group recites each point of the Scout Law, the Scoutmaster lights one of the candles. If time allows, the Scoutmaster may also explain the meaning of each point of the Scout Law, referring to the descriptions provided in The Boy Scout Handbook.

Scoutmaster: “The other great foundation of our organization is the Scout Oath. These three candles represent the three parts of the Oath—duty to God and country, duty to others, and duty to self. As I light these candles, please join me in reciting the Scout Oath.”
Senior patrol leader: (At the conclusion of the Oath.) “We welcome each one of you to the ranks of Scoutmasters serving the Boy Scouts of America. You are joining a tradition that goes back many generations and has included millions of dedicated adults before you. We celebrate your achievement and look forward to sharing in your many future successes.”

Instructors’ Note

The Scoutmaster and senior patrol leader can shake the hand of each participant and give them heartfelt word of congratulations and encouragement. If there have been other instructors involved in the course, they can join in at this point to give their congratulations as well. If the group is large, each instructor can go to a different part of the group to offer congratulations.

Debriefing of the Recognition Ceremony

After participants have returned to their seats, briefly summarize the most important aspects of the ceremony they have just experienced. Two points to emphasize are these:

- Scout ceremonies can touch on all eight methods of Scouting:
  1. The Ideals (the Scout Oath and Law; a Scoutmaster Minute)
  2. The Patrol Method (Scouts are recognized by members of their patrol, often for accomplishments that are outgrowths of patrol activities.)
  3. The Outdoors (Many of the awards Scouts receive involve outdoor activities.)
  4. Advancement (Recognition is one of the four steps of Scout advancement.)
  5. Association With Adults (Positive reinforcement from adults has tremendous value in giving young people confidence and self-assurance.)
  6. Personal Growth (Ceremonies recognize small and large stages of personal growth in the lives of Scouts.)
  7. Leadership Development (The skills, experiences, and advancement honored in Scout ceremonies help boys become better leaders.)
  8. The Uniform (Emblems of achievement presented during ceremonies are often in the form of badges that can be worn on the Scout uniform.)
• Scout ceremonies can have a powerful emotional component that may be very important to young people.

Encourage participants to think about how taking part in the Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster Leader Specific Training recognition ceremony made them feel. They received positive reinforcement, positive association with adults, and a positive connection with the ideals of Scouting. No doubt it was an enjoyable experience for most of them, and a meaningful one for many.

Imagine the impact this kind of recognition and positive reinforcement can have upon young boys, many of them experiencing this sort of achievement and recognition for the first time in their lives. When adults and older boys they look up to treat them with respect, honor them for what they have done, and value them for who they are, the effects can be remarkable.

A Closing Challenge

Instructors’ Note

The closing challenge is a way to bring Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster Leader Specific Training to a conclusion and to send participants home with a specific concept to consider. Instructors can shape the offering of the challenge in whatever form suits their own personalities and presentation styles. The text that follows suggests one way it may be done.

“We have come to the end of Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster Leader Specific Training. However, we don’t want you to think of this as the end, but rather as the beginning of many good things to come. To start you on the trail toward success as a Scout leader, we want to offer you a challenge.

“Look back at the first page of the Boy Scout Handbook. You may remember that that’s where we began this training—by looking at the promise of Scouting.

“Scouting promises boys a kind of experience they cannot find anywhere else. As troop leaders, you have the opportunity to deliver that promise to Scouts. That is our challenge to you—to do all you can to make the promise of Scouting come alive.
“Here’s what Scouting offers boys:
• Scouting promises the great outdoors.
• Scouting promises friendship.
• Scouting promises opportunities to work toward the Eagle rank.
• Scouting promises the tools to make the most of your family, your community, and your nation.
• Scouting promises experiences and duties that will help Scouts mature into a strong, wise adults.

“That's a lot to promise. But for close to a century, Scout leaders all over America have succeeded in delivering on that promise. Millions of boys have had meaningful experiences through Scouting, and millions of adults have had the satisfaction of enriching the lives of young people through the programs of the BSA.

“Now it is your turn. You will no doubt be surprised by some of the situations you encounter. But you also know now where to turn for solutions, for advice, and for assistance in making your troop the best it can possibly be.

“The challenge is yours—to deliver the promise of Scouting to the boys in your troop. We wish you well as you set out on this great journey of being a leader in the Boy Scouts of America.”

**Summary Assignment**

Ask participants to take several minutes to write down two of the most important points they have learned during Session Three of Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster Leader Specific Training, and note how they intend to use these points with their own troops. They are to keep this piece of writing with them, adding to it at the end of each of the three sessions. There will be no follow-up; the information they write down and the guidance it provides is for them alone.