



# Liberty Trek



## Earn The Liberty Trek Patch -- Symbolism and Meaning

The Liberty Trek patch will be available to those who register and complete the weekend camporee. The Patch is paid for by Liberty Trek sponsors who are making it available to those who remain at camp and complete the Liberty Trek. The patch is not part of the registration fee and will not be available to those not registered or absent.

Measuring 4"x 4", this fully embroidered patch depicts both a Scout and General Washington raising their arms and swearing an oath. "On My Honor" is the pictorial message. Behind them is the iconic flag of the American Revolution: white for purity and innocence, red for hardiness and valor, and blue for vigilance, perseverance, and justice. The circular star configuration signifies unity within a heavenly halo--the United States' reliance upon Divine Providence. The flag is the symbolic representation of the struggle for and attainment of liberty, freedom, and independence.

Washington's two personal mottos appear on the patch, the first as found in the Scout oath: "On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my Country." The second, a reflection of the Scout slogan "Do a good turn daily." We see above Washington's shoulder the trefoil symbol reminding us of the Scouting emblem (refer to the emblems at the top of this sheet). The emblem's basic shape is reminiscent of the north point of an old sailor's compass. This shows that a Scout is able to point his life in the right way. The three points of the trefoil are like the three fingers used in the Scout sign.

They stand for the three parts of the Scout Oath: duty to God and country; duty to others; duty to self. The eagle and shield, national emblem of the United States, stands for freedom and a Scout's readiness to defend that freedom. The two stars stand for truth and knowledge. They guide the Scout by night and suggest a Scout's outdoor life. The scroll is turned up at the ends to remind us of the corners of a Scout's mouth raised in a smile as he does his duty cheerfully. The Scout motto, "Be Prepared" is printed across the scroll. The knot attached to the bottom of the scroll represents the Scout slogan. (*Scout Hand Book, p.31*)

The shape of the patch reminds us of the rectitude of being "Fair and Square" in that, like Washington, we too must be good and honest in all that we do. And the act of "Squaring up" is to face something unpleasant and to confront it even though it may be perceived as frightening. The words of the patch are printed in gold to remind us of purity. Pure intent and actions, virtue and courage are essential to the preservation of our liberty and freedoms. The use of the word Trek reminds us that America's journey to liberty was long and difficult: years of petitioning a tyrant king, pleading for equal justice under the law, pleading to have man's unalienable rights recognized, followed by an eight-year war to win independence. Our Founding Fathers' trek to obtain liberty was no less challenging than the trek required to defend and preserve liberty now. This is a trek every true patriotic American must take up and faithfully endure--This is Liberty Trek.

