

**DETERMINING THE IMPACT OF PROPER UNIFORM AND PATCH PLACEMENT
WORN BY THE COMMISSIONER UPON SCOUTS AND SCOUTERS.**

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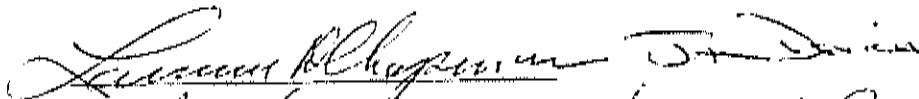

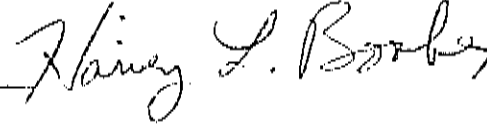
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TO THE GRADUATE COUNCIL:

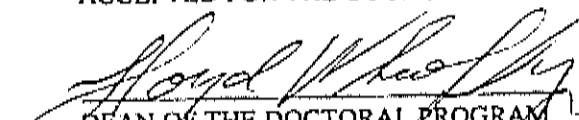
I AM SUBMITTING HERewith A THESIS BY JOHN M. GRAHAM ENTITLED "DETERMINING THE IMPACT OF PROPER UNIFORM AND PATCH PLACEMENT WORN BY THE COMMISSIONER UPON SCOUTS AND SCOUTERS". I HAVE EXAMINED THE FINAL COPY OF THIS THESIS FOR FORM AND CONTENT AND RECOMMEND THAT IT BE ACCEPTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF COMMISSIONER SCIENCE.


MR. LAURENCE D. CHAPMAN, ADVISOR

WE HAVE READ THIS THESIS
AND RECOMMEND ITS ACCEPTANCE:


 
DATED: May 16, 1997

ACCEPTED FOR THE COUNCIL:


DEAN OF THE DOCTORAL PROGRAM

DETERMINING THE IMPACT OF PROPER UNIFORM AND PATCH PLACEMENT WORN BY THE COMMISSIONER UPON SCOUTS AND SCOUTERS.

ABSTRACT

It has been said by others that a Scouter in the Official BSA uniform with correct badge placement has a lot of impact on Scouts at the Troop level that are only dressed partially in the BSA uniform. By dressing correctly and alike, you and all other Scouts, show that you are equal.

This thesis is being written to enlighten Commissioners about their uniform and how to place their awards and badges on their uniform. There are too many Commissioners and Scouters wearing their uniform wrong, and they are the reason for the uniform problem at the troop levels when a Scout says that they do not have to wear some part of the Scout uniform because "so and so" does not. Take time to look at your uniform, and see whether it meets the Official BSA uniform.

What is the Official BSA uniform? The Official BSA Uniform consists of, a shirt, shorts or trousers, a web-belt, and appropriate socks, green with a red tab around the top. (Two other items that go along with the uniform are the cap; which is usually a troop decision, and the shoes or boots; which are chosen by the Scout.) BSA has given us guidelines for what they feel is the appropriate official uniform for the Scouts to wear. All of the approved clothing by BSA has "BSA official" printed in the garment.

For this Thesis, the "Commissioner" is the main Leader for the Scouter and Scout and should wear the correct "BSA official uniform" whenever they dress in a Scout uniform for any type of Boy Scout Function.

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INTRODUCTION

Next time you are with a group of Scout Leaders, take a moment and compare their uniforms with the other leaders' uniforms at the meeting. Compare to see if all the uniforms look the same. More than likely, no two uniforms will look the same. One reason could be because of the type of badges that are on each of the uniforms. These badges could be temporary badges, or they could be the different lodge OA flaps, or how the embroidered knots are placed on the uniform. All of these reasons will make the uniform appear different. Another way is to have the placement of the patches placed in the wrong location on the Scout uniform. There is a correct way to place your badges on the uniform. Just because the patches are different; this does not take away from the uniform, but because the patch is in a wrong location on the uniform, it will make a difference in the way the uniform will look. This is what this thesis will inform Commissioners and Scout Leaders about. It is entitled:
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METHOD

Over the years, it has been noticed that different BSA leaders uniforms were worn incorrectly and some had badges located in the wrong location. It is amazing that these leaders have gotten to where they are in Scouting, when they can not put their awards or badges on their uniform correctly. There are many books and articles published by the Boy Scouts of America on the correct procedure for wearing a uniform and correct badge placement on the BSA Scout uniform. A person as knowledgeable as a Commissioner should know the correct procedure. Over the past few years, I have wanted to write a report on this topic. Since that time, I have been collecting different books and articles on uniforms in scouting and badge placement on the uniform.

One thing that I have learned is that there is a vast amount of information on different BSA topics and that nobody should be lost for knowledge about how to dress correctly or attach a patch in the wrong location on the Scout uniform. If this is true, why are there so many Commissioners and Scout Leaders wearing the wrong uniform and placing the badges in the wrong location on their uniforms?

I hope by writing this thesis that Commissioners and Scout Leaders will take time to read this thesis. It is easy reading and a compact document that contains a lot of information on the Scout uniform and tells how and why the badges are supposed to be worn as shown by the BSA publications.

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RESULTS:

A Commissioner is someone that the Scouters and Scouts look up to for help within the Scouting Program. The Commissioner needs to wear the complete Official Uniform whenever he is doing official business within the Scouting Program. It is said that the Official Scout uniform will help you achieve the objectives of Scouting. The Commissioners are seen by all and the way he is dressed makes an impression on everyone he comes in contact with.

The Official BSA Uniform, as previously stated, is a shirt, shorts or trousers, a belt, and socks.

There are other items with "BSA Official" printed on them, but these are clothing items which are extras that the Scout does not have to wear unless he wants to for personal reasons. One item is the cap. Boy Scout leaders wear the olive and red visor cap, and/or campaign hat. The campaign hat is made of felt with a leather BSA hat band. The First Class Scout Pin is approved for youth wear only to wear on the campaign hat. The adult leaders can only wear the Adult Universal Hat Pin on the Campaign Hat.

Not only does the Commissioner need to wear the uniform correctly, but he needs to have all his emblems correctly located on his uniform. This is important because it lets others know the present status of an adult Scout leader.

Many Commissioners and leaders feel that there is a Class "A" and a Class "B" uniform within the BSA. This is incorrect even though many troops choose to wear, in informal situations, a troop T-shirt, cap, or some color knit shirt. This is acceptable wear, but is not the official BSA uniform. There is only one official Boy Scout uniform, and it is the tan shirt with olive green shorts or trousers with the appropriate socks which are green with a red tab around the top. You can officially wear either the BSA crew socks or the knee socks with your BSA uniform.

The colored shoulder epaulets identify the area of scouting that a leader is involved in. Blue is for Cub Scouting,

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red is for Boy Scouting, blaze is for Varsity Scouting, green is for Exploring, silver is for Council and District, and gold is for National and Regional. A Scouter should always wear the correct color Epaulets of position in which he is functioning.

One of the most important pieces of clothing that a Scout or Scouter wears is the shirt. It is important because it lets others know the status of that person. I will be explaining only about the leaders uniform since that is what a Commissioner needs to wear.

First it goes without saying, that the Commissioner's uniform should be clean and neat in appearance. The Commissioner needs to have the silver epaulets on both the right and left shoulder loops of the shirt.

On the right sleeve, the Commissioner should have the United States Flag worn under the shoulder seam.

Nothing else should be attached on the Commissioners right sleeve. There are a few Commissioners that wear the Quality Unit Award. The Commissioner is not a part of a Unit and should not wear this patch. For the Commissioner's information, only the most recently earned Quality Unit emblem may be worn by a Troop.

On the left sleeve, the Commissioner should wear his Council emblem and emblem of office. The emblem of office is centered 4 inches below the left shoulder seam. Under the emblem of office, if the Commissioner has been trained for that office, the Trained emblem may be worn. Under the Trained emblem, the Arrowhead Honor is worn. The Trained Leader Emblem may be worn only in connection with the emblem of office for which basic training has been completed.

The right pocket is another area that confusion for the placement of emblems is seen. If a Commissioner has attended a Jamboree, this emblem is worn above the right pocket, above the interpreter strip, if worn, and above the Nameplate and above the BSA strip, which is included on all the official BSA shirts.. The Nameplate should be worn by all Commissioners so that all Scouters in their District will be able to know who they are speaking with without asking. It is not an official ruling by the BSA for the Commissioner to wear a Nameplate, but is one that will help the Commissioner become known while attending Round Tables, Camporees and other BSA related

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functions. (Nameplates, per the Insignia Guide, are white letters on black plastic background.)

Another emblem that is worn on the flap of the right pocket is the Order of the Arrow lodge insignia. This lodge insignia is earned after being elected to membership of the Order of the Arrow and successfully complete the Ordeal experience and participate in the induction ceremony.

A temporary insignia emblem may be worn on a Scout shirt. It may be worn centered on the right pocket below the right pocket flap. Usually these emblems, which are temporary now, have a button string attached so you will not have to sew it to your uniform. Commissioners should know that temporary insignias are not required for correct uniforms.

On the left pocket, badges of rank are not worn by adults. Service stars, medals and embroidered knots are worn above the left pocket on the adult uniform. The embroidered knots are representative of metal pin-on awards and are designed for greater convenience of the wearer. There is no wearing sequence for the embroidered knots on the adult uniform. They are worn above the left pocket in rows of three. It is suggested that the knot deemed most important by the wearer be worn on their own right. The correct way to attach the embroidered knots to the shirt is to have the loop of the embroidered square knot, that comes in front of the standing part, always to the wearer's right. Service stars are to be worn centered, $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch over the left pocket of embroidered knots.

Another emblem that is worn above the left pocket is the World Crest emblem. If it is worn, it is centered over the left pocket, 3 inches below the left shoulder seam. This emblem may be worn by all members of the BSA as an expression of brotherhood.

Another popular piece of clothing for the Commissioner is the red wool jac-shirt. The proper universal emblem for the branch of Scouting that the wearer is a part of, should be worn on the left pocket. The Philmont bull emblem was especially designed for this jac-shirt. It is to be sewn on the left shoulder above the pocket. The Order of the Arrow adopted the red wool jac-shirt as its official jacket. Members of the OA may wear the 6-inch national Order of the Arrow centered on the back. Other approved emblems that can be worn on the back of the jac-shirt are the large Philmont emblem, the NESAs emblem, jamboree emblems (worn only by registered jamboree participants

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and staff), National Camping School emblems, Scoutmaster Award of Merit emblem, and International Participant emblems. Only one such emblem may be worn at a time.

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CONCLUSIONS:

This thesis will improve the Scouting program by enlightening our fellow Commissioners and Scout Leaders to becoming knowledgeable about the Scout Uniform and badge placement on their uniform. This alone will help the Commissioner's staff in becoming better leaders to help Troops out when they perform a formal inspection for a Troop at their request. This is only a small part of what a Commissioner does, but at least he will now be doing the Troop inspection correctly and will not be incorrect by wearing improper badge placement on their own uniform.

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