

GIFT

GUIDE



POWERED BY MEMBERS LIKE YOU

Thanks for downloading the National Eagle Scout Association Gift Guide for Scoutmasters and Troop Leaders. We're excited to see the amazing gifts you create using this guide! **Share your pictures on our NESAs Facebook and Instagram pages and tag #nesa, #eaglescout, and #gratitudeattitude.** By sharing your thoughtful gestures, you inspire others to follow your lead.



COLE

Hey, there! I'm Cole, the guy behind ScoutSmarts. I earned my Eagle back in 2014, and along the way, learned how to be a dependable leader. Although I didn't realize it at the time, Scouting helped shape my life! While I can't tell my past self what I know now, I can share the smart Scouting knowledge I wish I'd known when just starting out.

scoutsmarts.com



NESA

The National Eagle Scout Association (NESA) is the official BSA alumni association exclusively for Eagle Scouts. No matter where your path leads, NESA is the bridge that connects you to a national network of like-minded individuals that will shape your future and foster a lifelong commitment to leadership, service, and Scouting values.

nesa.org/join-us



FOR SCOUTMASTERS
& TROOP LEADERS



ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE

Scoutmasters, adult volunteers, and committee members play a crucial role in the functioning of any Scout troop. They selflessly contribute their time and efforts to create memorable Scouting experiences for young individuals, without expecting any rewards. If a Scout leader has been of assistance to you, it is highly recommended to show your gratitude by presenting them with a meaningful gift.

It is important to note that gifts do not have to be expensive to make a significant impact. The fact that the adult leader has dedicated their time to volunteer with your troop demonstrates that their motivation lies beyond monetary gains. In this guide, we will explore unique and impactful gift ideas for the adult volunteers in your troop. Before diving into that, let's discuss the fundamentals of Scout gift giving.



NESA.org

ANY TIME IS THE RIGHT TIME

There's no strict rule about when to give your Scoutmaster a thank-you gift. You could give them one every year if you and your troop would like to (I'm sure they'd appreciate it!). However, there are a few occasions that are more commonly known as gift-giving moments.

1. When you earn your Eagle rank, it's common to gift your Scoutmaster(s) as a big thank you for their support throughout your Scouting journey. New Eagle Scouts often opt for practical gifts like gift cards or useful items instead of sentimental keepsakes.

2. When a leader is retiring, it's a chance for the whole troop to unite and plan a special gift. It can take many forms, but the goal is to honor and celebrate your leader's impact on your lives.

In collaboration with my fellow NESA members, I've put together this guide. Inside, you'll discover our favorite gifts to give and receive. Brace yourself for a burst of inspiration that will ignite your own fantastic gift ideas!

Yours in Scouting,

Cole



Cole from ScoutSmarts

CLASSIC GIFTS

FOR SCOUTING LEADERS



Heartfelt Letter

Gratitude letters are invaluable in showing leaders they are appreciated. Thank them for their investment in the troop and recall enjoyable activities, highlighting specific moments like impactful troop minutes or challenging camping experiences conquered together. By recounting the significance of those shared experiences, you'll create a lasting impression they'll cherish forever.



Host A Celebration

Sometimes, a good old-fashioned party is the best way to express gratitude. Consider hosting a potluck or barbecue. Importantly, dedicate a portion of the celebration to the honoree, allowing them to reflect on their time with the troop. Incorporate personal stories, and even the slideshow mentioned earlier, to combine sincere thank-you gestures into one memorable occasion.

Gift Card

Gift cards are a fantastic and thoughtful way to show your appreciation. Do a little investigating to figure out their favorite stores, sites or activities (or anything you think they might like). If unsure, a gift card to a local restaurant is a great choice. It treats them to a nice family and also supports your community. It's a win-win situation!



Slideshow or Movie

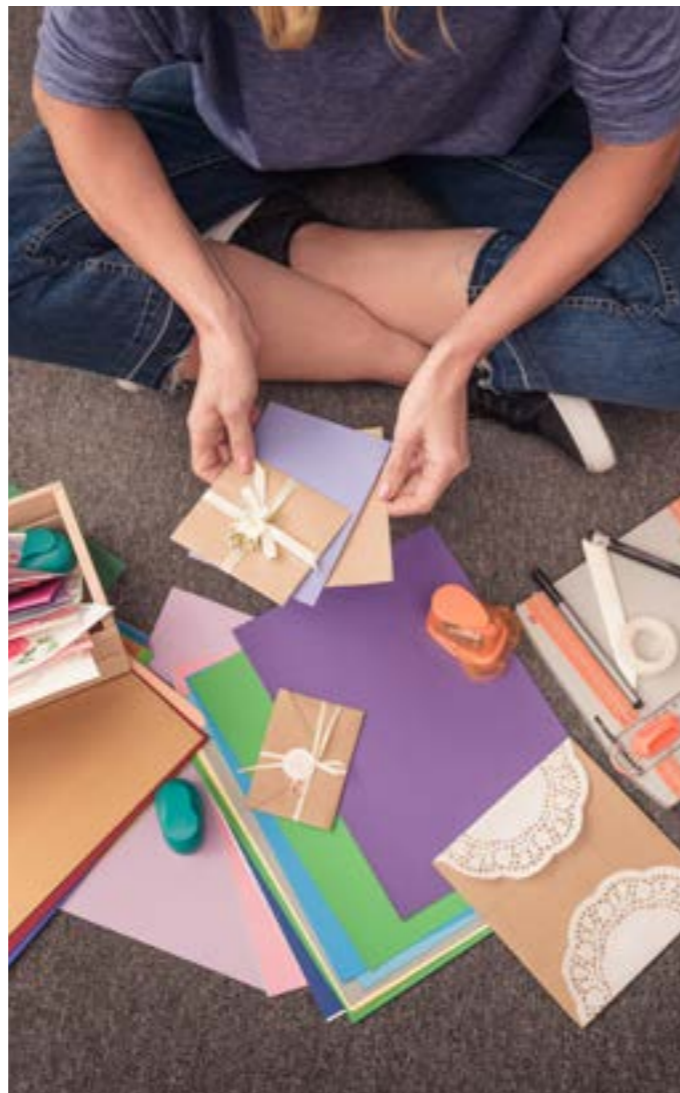
A heartfelt slideshow or short movie is the perfect gift to thank a Scout leader because it captures and celebrates cherished memories. Compile photos, stories, and moments shared with the leader, showcasing their impact. Use user-friendly software like iMovie to create a warm and visually captivating tribute that will leave a lasting impression of gratitude.



BEST RETIREMENT GIFT

A scrapbook is an awesome gift for a Scout leader's retirement! First off, it's a chance to gather all those incredible memories and moments you've shared together. You can fill the pages with photos, handwritten notes, and little keepsakes that bring back all the laughs, challenges, and triumphs you experienced as a troop. It's like a time capsule that captures the bond and adventure you had under their leadership. Trust me, this kind of personal touch makes it a present that will tug at their heartstrings.

But wait, there's more! A scrapbook is a gift that keeps on giving. It becomes a treasured keepsake they can flip through whenever they want to relive those amazing Scouting days. It's a reminder of the positive impact they made on your lives and the memories that will forever be etched in your hearts. Plus, it's a chance for everyone – volunteers, parents, and troop members alike – to come together and contribute their own photos and stories, making it a collaborative effort that truly reflects the love and appreciation you all have for your Scout leader. So get those scissors, glue, and markers ready, and create a retirement gift that will make them smile every time they open it!



Tips & Tricks

FOR A FANTASTIC SCRAPBOOK

With just a little bit of planning and organization, you can create a one-of-a-kind scrapbook gift. Remember: The key is to create a heartfelt and visually engaging scrapbook that celebrates the Scout leader's dedication and impact on the troop's journey. I've put together a few ideas to help you give it a personal touch!

Theme & Layout

Choose a cohesive theme for the scrapbook that reflects the Scout troop's activities and memorable moments. Plan the layout carefully, using a combination of photos, captions, and decorative elements.

Organize Chronologically

Arrange the pages in chronological order to showcase the leader's journey with the troop. This helps create a narrative flow and allows the leader to relive their experiences in a logical sequence.

Memorabilia & Artifacts

Incorporate small mementos like badges, patches, event tickets, or newspaper clippings that symbolize key moments or achievements. These tangible items add depth and authenticity to the scrapbook.

Personal Touch

Include personalized messages, quotes, or anecdotes from troop members to express gratitude and appreciation. These thoughtful additions will make the scrapbook even more meaningful.

Capture Milestones

Highlight important milestones, such as the leader's first day, special achievements, memorable trips, and significant events. These moments can be celebrated with dedicated pages or sections within the scrapbook.

Creative Elements

Experiment with various scrapbooking techniques, such as colorful backgrounds, decorative borders, stickers, and embellishments. Select styles that capture the essence of your leader's personality to enhance the visual appeal and aesthetic of the book.

Encourage troop members to contribute their own creative touches to the scrapbook. This collaborative effort will make the gift even more special and demonstrate the collective gratitude of the entire troop.



Inspirational Ideas for Incredible Leaders



Keepsakes

★★★★★

Give your Scoutmaster a lasting memento that blends practicality with sentimentality. These days, just about anything can be personalized. Tailor the engraved item to their interests. From practical items like cutting boards to keepsakes like this planter, trust your instincts for a meaningful gesture they'll love! Check out [Etsy](#) and [Amazon](#) for tons of unique custom gift ideas.



Books & Guides

★★★★★

If your Scout leader enjoys learning and exploring new topics, gift them books related to Scouting, leadership, outdoor skills, or personal development. Ask other leaders in your council for recommendations. The Scout shops have a nice selection. You can check out what they have on the "shelf" at ScoutShop.org/literature or give our old friend Google a try.



Outdoor Gear

★★★★★

Surprise your Scout leader with lasting reminders of your outdoor escapades: top-notch camping gear, hiking equipment, and outdoor accessories. From a versatile multi-tool to sturdy trekking poles, a portable chair, insulated water bottle, or adventure watch, these items show appreciation with each use. Personalize the gift for an extraordinary touch. Let [Google](#) be your guide here!



Handcrafted

★★★★★

Handmade gifts are personal and reflect the effort you put into creating something meaningful for your Scout leader. Some unique ideas include: a hand-crafted journal, a custom insulated tumbler, [this ADORABLE pillow made from neckers](#) (if you or someone you know can sew!). Get inspired with ideas from [Pinterest!](#)



Artwork

★★★★★

Custom artwork can be a unique and meaningful gift. Explore [Pinterest](#) and [Etsy](#) for a wide range of options, including personalized paintings, custom woodwork, and handcrafted sculptures. These one-of-a-kind creations showcase your gratitude whether it's a scenic landscape, a Scout emblem, or a personalized portrait. Custom artwork is a thoughtful way to honor their dedication and create a cherished keepsake.



Pay It Forward

★★★★★

Show gratitude for your Scout leader's dedication by making a meaningful donation in their name to your local council or a BSA cause. Support the organization that shaped their Scouting journey, whether it's funding scholarships, improving camps, or empowering youth programs. Your donation honors their legacy and helps create more opportunities for future Scouts. Give at Donations.Scouting.org.



Commit to Canvas

Commission a custom drawing of your leader and troop! Imagine the joy on your Scout leader's face when they receive a personalized drawing that captures the spirit and togetherness of your troop.

Not only will this custom drawing make an unforgettable gift, but it will also become a cherished keepsake. It's something your Scout leader can proudly display, serving as a



constant reminder of the impact they've made on your lives and the incredible journey you've been on together. Every time they look at the artwork, they'll be filled with warm memories and a sense of pride.

TIP | You can find talented artists on platforms like [Fiverr](#) to commission your drawing. Share specific details about your Scout leader and troop, including anecdotes and unique characteristics. The artist will work their magic to create stunning artwork that reflects their essence and troop camaraderie.

more...

01 a living tribute

Nurture appreciation by having every Scout contribute a plant to a garden, dedicating that section to your Scoutmaster – a living tribute to their lasting impact.

02 warm memories

Get them a cozy custom blanket to keep them warm, whether they're snuggled up at home or out camping. It's a practical and thoughtful gift they'll love!

03 package up gratitude

Gift a custom-decorated gratitude jar! Scouts write thank-you notes and put them in the jar. Your Scout leader can open a note whenever they need a boost or feel nostalgic. It's a heartfelt pick-me-up for rough days!

A Gift Money Can't Buy

A skit for your Scoutmaster is like giving a gift that money can't buy. It's a chance to show how much you appreciate their time with the troop and how they've helped everyone grow. Bring back all those awesome memories and reenact the moments that made you laugh, learn, and become better people. Show how the Scoutmaster made a difference in your lives: the skills they taught you, how they pushed you to work as a team, and even helped you become better people. You'll not only be saying thank you, you'll be showing it in action.

Perform the skit during a special event or at a celebration just for the Scoutmaster – when everyone will be there, cheering and clapping. Remember: While this skit should be fun, it's a way to honor your Scoutmaster's dedication and leadership.

Present a custom skit!



🎵 Serenade Your Scoutmaster 🎵

Write a heartfelt song that reflects your shared adventures and learning. Perform it as a group at a special event. Record the song and present it as a gift!

EVEN MORE

[Best Scouting Films](#)
Follow Me Boys
The Fabelmans

[Vouchers For Fun!](#)
Passes to a local water park or zoo, sailing, round of golf, rafting, horse riding...

[Tasty Treats](#)
Baked goods or other home-cooked items.

[Page-Turners](#)
Your favorite book or magazine subscription to something they are interested in.



BECAUSE YOUR
**SCOUTING
JOURNEY**
DOESN'T END AT EAGLE.



MORE RESOURCES

[New Eagle Checklist](#), curated by NESA members. Understand the first eight steps new Eagles should immediately take.



Since you have earned the esteemed rank of Eagle Scout, Scouting has undoubtedly played a vital role in molding your character and equipping you with invaluable life skills.

By becoming a member of the National Eagle Scout Association (NESA), you will join a distinguished lineage of Eagle Scouts and leave an indelible mark on future generations. NESA offers a platform for you to connect with fellow Eagle Scouts, contribute through meaningful service projects, and hone your leadership skills.

The future of Scouting is in your hands, so seize this chance to shape it.

[Join us today](#) and be a part of the extraordinary journey that lies ahead.

nesa.org/join-us

[Click here for more new Eagle Scout resources!](#)