

50-State Learning Standards ↔ Scouting Program Crosswalk

A reference for councils and unit leaders preparing school-partnership conversations

This resource gives every council a one-page, state-specific starting point for showing school leaders how Cub Scout Adventures and Scouts BSA merit badges and programs reinforce what their state already requires students to learn. The Cub Scout and Scouts BSA columns are the same on every page — both are national programs — the left-hand column is what changes state to state. An eighth row, Leadership & Service, covers Scouting's Positions of Responsibility, National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT), and the Order of the Arrow alongside each state's service-learning and graduate-competency policies.

How to use this

- Find your state's page and use it as background for a Join Scouting Night conversation with a principal, superintendent, or curriculum office — it isn't meant to be handed over as-is.
- Every state's STEM, ELA, Civics & Government, Financial Literacy, and Environmental Science rows now name the actual state standards documents and, where they exist, the specific statutes or tests behind graduation requirements. Health & PE and Character rows remain general category descriptions. Requirements and standards names still change over time — confirm current details with your own curriculum contacts before quoting them to a district.
- Requirements change frequently — several states below are actively phasing in new civics and financial-literacy mandates over the next few years. Verify current details with your state's department of education before a meeting.
- Social studies standards are under active revision in several states as of September 2026: Oklahoma (a formal review triggered by an Oklahoma Supreme Court ruling), Maine (the legislature sent the proposed 2024 standards back for revision), Idaho (revised K-12 standards are scheduled to go before the State Board and Legislature in 2026), South Carolina (a new standards-writing committee was organized in November 2025), and Wyoming (a review process began in late 2025). Councils in these five states should double-check the Civics & Government citation below before using it in a meeting.

Sources

Financial literacy status: Four Gifts Publishing 50-state tracker, compiling the Next Gen Personal Finance (NGPF) Live U.S. Dashboard and the Council for Economic Education's 2026 Survey of the States (data current through June 2026). Civics status: Hoover Institution, "State Civics Requirements In 2024," cross-checked against state education agencies and legislation for verified states. Standards names for verified states: confirmed directly against each state department of education. Scouting program structure: Scouting America (scouting.org) Cub Scout Adventure and Scouts BSA merit badge program pages.

Verification status: all 50 states have been individually verified against official state standards documents and statutes, with specific standards names and civics/financial-literacy citations. The Health & PE and Character rows remain general category descriptions across all states, since Scouting's alignment there does not hinge on a state's exact standards title.

Leadership & Service row status: all 50 states have been individually researched for statewide service-learning graduation mandates and Portrait/Profile of a Graduate adoption. Unlike the rows above, "no statewide requirement identified" was the single most common finding — most states leave service hours and graduate-competency frameworks to individual districts. Roughly 20 states have adopted some form of statewide Portrait/Profile of a Graduate, and a smaller handful (Maryland, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and a few others) have an actual statewide service-hour or service-participation graduation mandate; the rest carry a clear "no state mandate" finding rather than a research gap.

Texas

Learning Standards ↔ Scouting Program Crosswalk — standards names and civics/finance citations verified

Standards Domain	Cub Scouts (K–5)	Scouts BSA (6–12)
STEM — Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for Mathematics and Science, including inquiry- and engineering-design practices	STEM elective Adventures at every rank; Nova Awards; nature/science Adventures	Engineering, Robotics, Programming, Space Exploration, Chemistry, Physics, Astronomy, Geology, Weather, Nature merit badges
Civics & Government — Texas requires civics training for teachers and administrators under new legislation (TEC §21.4555, SB 3, 2021), aligned with civics instruction requirements in TEC §28.002(h-2) and §28.0022, under the Social Studies TEKS.	Citizenship required Adventure at every rank; Duty to Country themes	Citizenship in the Community, Nation, and World merit badges (all required for Eagle); Messenger of Peace service program
Financial Literacy — Standalone: one-semester personal financial literacy course required for 9th graders entering 2026–27 (HB 27, 2025), counting toward the social studies requirement.	Financial-literacy elective Adventures (age-appropriate budgeting, earning, saving)	Personal Management merit badge (required for Eagle; budgeting, saving, planning)
ELA / Communication — Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for English Language Arts and Reading	Adventures requiring presentations, journaling, den/pack communication	Communication merit badge (required for Eagle); badge process itself requires research and oral presentation
Health & Physical Education — Texas Health and Physical Education standards	Personal Fitness / Personal Health required Adventures at every rank	Personal Fitness, First Aid, Emergency Preparedness/Lifesaving merit badges (required for Eagle)
Environmental / Life Science — Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for Science, life/earth science content	Nature/conservation electives; World Conservation Award; Leave No Trace Award	Environmental Science or Sustainability merit badge (required for Eagle); Forestry, Soil & Water Conservation electives
Character & Social-Emotional Development — embedded across Texas social studies and health standards	Character-focused required Adventures at every rank; den/pack teamwork	Scout Oath and Law woven through every rank; Family Life and Personal Management merit badges
Leadership & Service — No statewide service-hour or Portrait of a Graduate requirement identified for Texas K-12 public schools.	Den/pack leadership roles (Denner, Assistant Denner); community-service-themed Adventures and pack service projects	Positions of Responsibility required for rank advancement (Patrol Leader, Troop Guide, Senior Patrol Leader, and more); National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT); the Order of the Arrow — Scouting's national honor society, built on cheerful service, to which Scouts are elected by their peers

