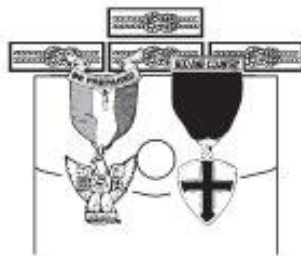


Medals and Embroidered Knots and How to Wear Them



According to the BSA Insignia Guide, Only five medals may be worn at a time pinned in a single row immediately above the seam of the left pocket. Knots are worn above the left pocket in rows of three. The order of wearing of medals and knots is at the discretion of the wearer. It is suggested that the medal or knot deemed most important by the wearer be worn on his or her own right. Embroidered knots are representative of pin-on medals or around-the-neck awards and are designed for the convenience of the wearer. In the case of the District Award of Merit and Professional Training Award, the knot is the only wearable insignia.



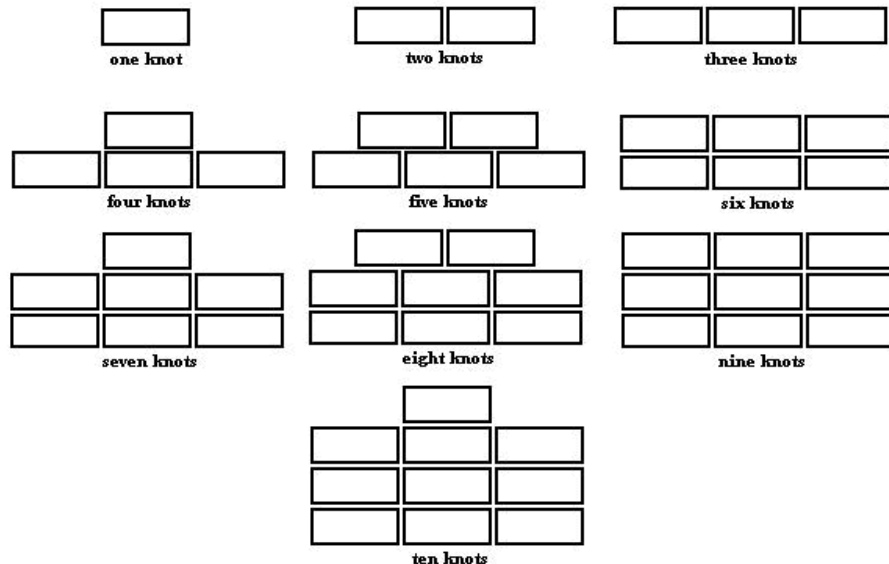
The loop of the embroidered square knot that comes in front of the standing part is always to the wearer's right. In knots where both strands are the same color and therefore difficult to distinguish which strand comes in front, use the above drawing to determine wearer's right. Knots are worn with the distinguishing color (not white) toward the wearer's right.

You may wear as many different knots as you would like. However, you may only wear one of each knot. If you have earned the same knot more than once - for example, the Scouter's Key and Commissioner's Key, you would wear a single knot with two devices to denote multiple awards. There is no order of precedence as to what knot is worn in what order. You can wear them in the order of importance to yourself, the order earned, etc. To keep your uniform sharp, however, you attach the knots to your uniform shirt properly.

The knots are worn centered on the left side of the uniform, above the left pocket and in rows of three with the bottom edge of the knot emblem(s) touching the top edge of the pocket flap. Subsequent rows of knots are placed above the initial set, in rows of three and again, at the discretion of the wearer.

As a general rule, the knots should not be worn when the medal, medallion or device is worn. The knots are designed for informal, everyday wear by Scouts and Scouters including Professional Scouters.

A few years ago Professional Scouters were discouraged from wearing training awards or other awards except for those related to achievement and training. During his years at the helm, Chief Scout Executive Ben Love, changed this policy and encouraged professional members of Scouting to wear all of the square knots that they were entitled to wear. He also lifted a longstanding restriction on allowing exceptional professionals to receive the Silver Beaver, District/Division Award of Merit Awards, and other service awards. Now, if a professional is nominated for a BSA service or tenure award, in addition to the approval of the local Council's Scout Executive, the award must also be approved by the Director of Operations at the National Office, BSA.



Devices used on Square Knot Patches

The following devices should be stocked by your local Scout Shop, along with all other advancement items. They are not be available at a commercial Scout supply distributors.

When an award is given to a Scout or Scouter that also has a related square knot, the knot may be worn by itself on the uniform or with one of the devices depicted above to indicate the program phase where the award was earned. For example, a Unit Commissioner that earns the Commissioner Key (same knot as the Scouter Key) would wear the Commissioner device. If a Scout or Scouter earns a subsequent award represented by the same knot, the Scout or Scouter should wear a device for each program phase where the knot was earned (you do not wear multiple issues of the same knot). In particular, a Scout that earns a sequence of religious emblems would wear ONE universal religious emblem knot and up to four devices, as described below:

- Wear the CUB SCOUT device for the first level emblem (God & Me, Maccabee, etc.) earned as a Tiger Cub or Cub Scout;
- Wear the WEBELOS SCOUT device for the second level emblem (God & Family, Parvuli Dei, Aleph, etc.) earned as a Cub Scout or Webelos Scout;
- Wear the BOY SCOUT device for the first level emblem (God & Church, Ad Altare Dei, Ner Tamid, etc.) earned as a Boy Scout;
- Wear the VENTURING device for the second level emblem (God & Life, Pope Pius XII, Etz Chaim, etc.) earned as an older Boy Scout, Varsity Scout, Sea Scout, or Venturer.

Note that Webelos Scout and Venturing devices are used to designate the second level emblems described above, EVEN IF the boy isn't a Webelos Scout and/or Venturer when the member earns the appropriate religious emblem.

There are two additional devices, not shown above, that are worn on the James West Fellowship Knot, to recognize major donors, the 1910 Society pin and the Founders Circle pin. Those devices and the qualifications for them can be seen on the page that describes the James West Fellowship Knot within the insignia guide.



