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## Boy Scouts of America to Introduce Game Design Merit Badge

**Newest badge recognizes the important skills that kids can learn from gaming.**

by Katie Williams

March 7, 2013

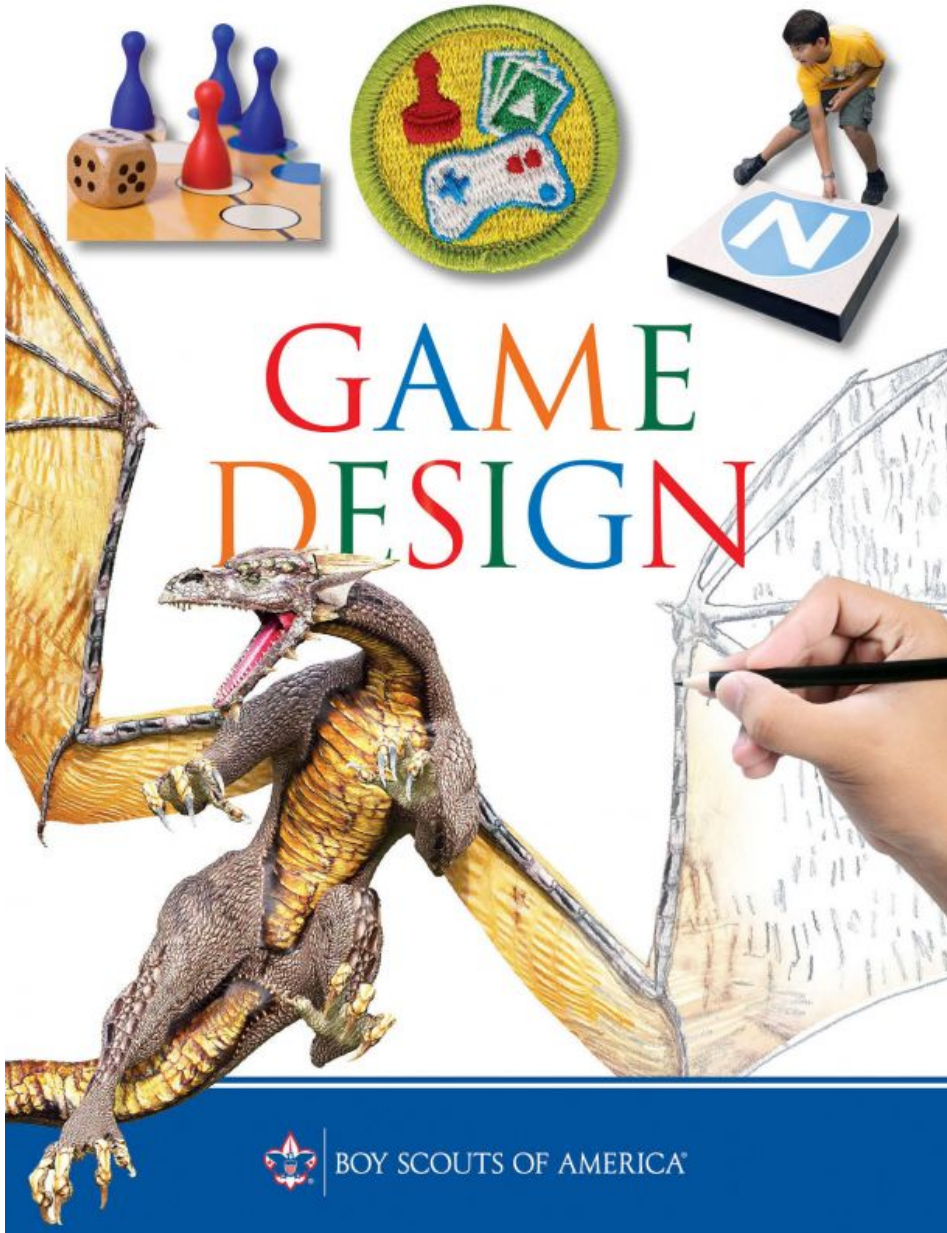
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The Boy Scouts of America will introduce a new Game Design Merit Badge this year.

Recognizing that gaming teaches children skills ranging from basic courtesy all the way through to logic and mathematics, The Boy Scouts spent two years designing and testing the new merit badge's requirements with input from volunteers from the games industry.

To earn his new badge, a Scout will need to analyze different types of games, describe the content and theme, and understand the concept of intellectual property as it relates to the games industry. He will put his new knowledge to use by keeping a notebook to chart the design of his very own game project, demonstrating a concept, numerous design iterations based on testing, and feedback from his testers.

# MERIT BADGE SERIES



Once approved, the Scout may begin to build a prototype of his game, and all mediums are encouraged – from card games all the way through to smartphone apps.

The Boy Scouts is the United States’ foremost character development and leadership training program for youths, and their acknowledgement of gaming in strengthening young people’s lives is an important step forward in widening the nation’s acceptance of the medium. Boy Scouts representatives will be at the SXSW Gaming Expo in Austin, Texas this weekend to introduce the new merit badge to the public.

*Katie Williams is a freelance games journalist and critic. She [tweets at @desensitisation](#) and hopes that one day, a bird will tweet back.*

by Katie Williams

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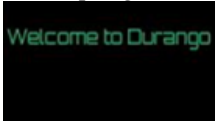


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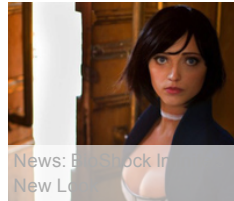
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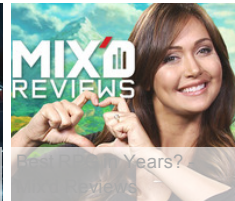
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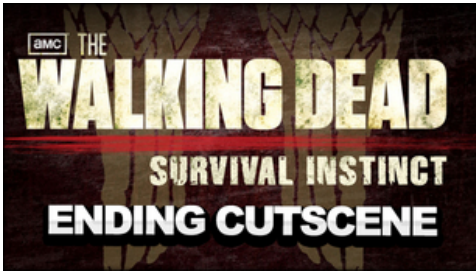
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**Bane\_Chain** • 13 days ago

I'm an Eagle Scout and I wish I had this when I could earn badges!

169 ^ | 2 v • Share >



**NotMordecai** → Bane\_Chain • 13 days ago

Same here

36 ^ | v • Share >



**wpcarter711** → NotMordecai • 13 days ago

Becoming a Eagle Scout was one of my most proudest moments of my life.

64 ^ | 1 v • Share >



**W-Storm4** → wpcarter711 • 13 days ago

I quit being a Boy Scout...

Somehow I never thought it would be shameful before.

25 ^ | 2 v • Share >



**jankelope** → W-Storm4 • 13 days ago

it was cool experience in my life. I remember scout blast. It was pretty awesome

10 ^ | v • Share >



**stupidscreenname** → W-Storm4 • 13 days ago

why is it shameful?

3 ^ | 2 v • Share >



**ballsandshaft** → wpcarter711 • 13 days ago

Yeah, getting into a group that openly hates a minority of people is really something to be proud of.

@Last2jog - Right, and the mormon's hatred of blacks until the early 80's doesn't represent everyone in the group. And just because most of the Nazis hated jews doesn't mean they all did. There were even people involved in the KKK who didn't hate jews and blacks either! Lets all join groups that practice hate and then say that it's ok because they also teach practical information.

@stupidscreenname - I don't plan on joining. Hate is hate, saying "but my religion tells me to!" is a childish excuse.

22 ^ | 21 v • Share >



**Last2Jog** → ballsandshaft • 13 days ago

While their morals may not be in-line with yours, the lessons and skills are useful. Generally speaking, scouting has had a positive impact on my life. BSA's official stance on gays' participation doesn't represent everyone involved with the organization.

21 ^ | 5 v • Share >



**Guest** → Last2Jog • 12 days ago

It only takes one outdated policy to throw a bad light on a whole organisation. BSA, as a group following Christian belief system, is as outdated as the Religion itself. People often need reminded, whilst Religion is a belief, and a baseless one at that, being gay is a state of being and America is on a road to

3 ^ | 3 v • Share >



**stupidscreenname** → ballsandshaft • 13 days ago

They don't hate anybody... the boy scouts are an american organization, and they operate under biblical principles... it's Christian from the beginning. A "CHRISTIAN" organization...lol. If you don't like Christian organizations, then don't join. Nobody is forcing anybody. But don't expect them to condone principles against them... Boy Scouts are about honor, duty, and faith, to GOD and the United States... it's pretty clear.

14 ^ | 7 v • Share >



**Battlestar042** → stupidscreenname • 13 days ago

Hmm that reminds me of some other organisation.. now what was it again.. something the ex-Pope was in back as a kid in Germany.. Nope it's just not coming to me.

7 ^ | 2 v • Share >



**stupidscreenname** → Battlestar042 • 13 days ago

No it doesn't... lol. Nice try, though. Way to try to spin.

0 ^ | 3 v • Share >



**TobieO** → stupidscreenname • 9 days ago

You really drove your point home when you capitalized the entirety of GOD.

1 ^ | v • Share >

**stupidscreenname** → TobieO • 9 days ago

what?

0 ^ | v • Share >

**daveness** → stupidscreenname • 12 days ago

It only takes one particularly outdated policy to throw a bad light on a whole organisation. BSA, as a group following Christian belief system, is as outdated as the Religion itself. People often need reminded, whilst religion is a faith based belief system, and a baseless one at that, being gay is a clear state of being and America is on a road to legal equality for gay men, women and (presumably) adolescents. Intolerance should not be allowed in a group for young people. With any luck, the law will make sure that is not an option in the coming years.

1 ^ | v • Share >

**stupidscreenname** → daveness • 12 days ago

Are you saying "Christianity is an outdated belief"?... lol

wow.

2 ^ | 2 v • Share ›

[daveness](#) → [stupidscreenname](#) • 10 days ago

Yes, it is. Here in the UK, nobody seriously cares. Their opinions and protests of progressive policies are usually rooted in intolerance. Even the Queen, as Head of the Church of England, is due to make a speech quite contrary to her position to change their narrow minded views. I, myself, am a Roman Catholic by baptism, though identify as Agnostic since a very young age. Special call outs to some of the more 'interesting' American variants and Roman Catholicism. Outdated, discriminatory, an oppressive fiction.

1 ^ | v • Share ›

[stupidscreenname](#) → [daveness](#) • 10 days ago

Yeah, I agree with you... however, none of that is true Christianity. What you're referring to is a bunch of man-made doctrine and rules that are not Biblical at all... I don't mean to offend, but Catholicism is NOT Biblical at all... its entire history is made up of oppressive ideology.... which has nothing to do with being Christian. Catholics are not Christians; they believe that the priest absolves their sins, and they worship Mary over Jesus even... Jesus is the only way to Heaven... the ONLY way.

0 ^ | 2 v • Share ›

[daveness](#) → [stupidscreenname](#) • 8 days ago

I don't fear a creationism myth. I'd be fascinated to know precisely what I'm meant to take the time to understand. A baseless book or 2? I deal in what is evident and observable, not in fantasy. If other people want to base their lives on millennia old stories, then they've the right to ignore observable, contrary phenomena all around them every day.

0 ^ | v • Share ›

[daveness](#) → [stupidscreenname](#) • 8 days ago

I'm not offended. I think religion is a nonsense and a falsity personally. The entire thing is a man-made doctrine. The bible is a fiction. There is no reason to presume otherwise. If you believe it's more, that's FAITH. People aren't obliged to have faith. They are obliged to tolerate each other in decent society though. The law will make a mockery of religion's policies of injustice in time.

0 ^ | v • Share ›

[stupidscreenname](#) → [daveness](#) • 8 days ago

To be clear, I'm only continuing to talk to you about this because you're talking to me, lol. I don't mean to bother you.

There's a difference between believing and knowing... knowing comes from experience, just as with science, math, and physics, which is what I "do" in life. Also, religions ARE made by man, this is correct, but "religions" are pointless; Christianity is not a "religion" in the comparative sense of the word; it is THE religion, really; it is an acceptance of God into your life; people CALL it a "religion" to lump it with other religions because they don't accept God, nor do they understand, sadly.

God is God, and if you don't believe in Him, then that's that I suppose... You have the free will to accept what you want. The Bible was written literally with man's hands, but it was inspired by God, which cannot be explained in that sentence alone. I don't want to write a book on this forum, but I thought I would respond briefly about it. Not that I can convince you, because I'm not trying to. You have to convince yourself; and it's all between you and God, and nobody else.

0 ^ | v • Share ›

[stupidscreenname](#) → [daveness](#) • 8 days ago

You're free to think that. My friendly word of advice to you to is make sure you're positive that Jesus/God/holy spirit isn't real before you dismiss it entirely... Eternity is a long time and a harsh punishment for simply not taking the time to be sure of understanding. : )

Regardless, this is a gaming site, so game on, my friend! lol

0 ^ | v • Share ›

[rbutel](#) → [stupidscreenname](#) • 10 days ago

Yes.

0 ^ | v • Share ›

[stupidscreenname](#) → [rbutel](#) • 10 days ago

sinh



0 ^ | | v • Share ›

[lockpix](#) → [stupidscreenname](#) • 10 days ago

actually in my troop there was a kid who practiced muslimism or whatever its called out there and nobody cared if he didnt pray when the rest of us did he was still a cool guy and respected our beliefs it all really depends on your troop or area most scout masters all have their way of doing things

1 ^ | | 2 v • Share ›

[rbuettel](#) → [lockpix](#) • 10 days ago

Islam. Muslims are the followers of Islam. You could have done a quick Google search while you were posting that. It would have taken you two seconds.

2 ^ | | v • Share ›

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That's fine. He should not be discriminated against, and neither should anyone else.

0 ^ | | v • Share ›

[Acesonnall](#) → [ballsandshaft](#) • 12 days ago

Lol you've got it all wrong. Just because a group doesn't allow certain things doesn't mean they actually hate the group.

An all boy or girls colleges that doesn't allow the opposite sex doesn't hate the opposite sex. It's just choice and in this case, Boy Scouts of America has no reason to break tradition.

1 ^ | | 3 v • Share ›

[daveness](#) → [Acesonnall](#) • 10 days ago

Intolerance is a disgusting thing. BSA's intolerance is rooted in the religious intolerance. Religion is not law.

Equality laws, however, are on the rise. Children should not be judged on their sexuality. They shouldn't have their opportunities limited.

2 ^ | | 1 v • Share ›

[TobieO](#) → [Acesonnall](#) • 9 days ago

Except boy and girl colleges don't hold that the other gender is certain to be damned to an eternity of suffering for being homosexual. Ironically, it's homophobic organizations like the BSA that make life hell for gay kids -- and don't say they don't. Being directly involved in hate crimes isn't something the BSA makes a habit of, but indirectly they've affected countless boys by promoting intolerance and bigotry.

0 ^ | | 1 v • Share ›

[Arec Barrwin](#) → [wpcarter711](#) • 13 days ago

Proud to be in a family of Eagle Scouts! Philmont and Sea Base were awesome high adventure trips!

2 ^ | | 2 v • Share ›

[-VashTS](#) → [Arec Barrwin](#) • 12 days ago

Sea Base rocked! The other boat that was with us pulled up a motor on their anchor one morning, haha. Half their crew got sick at Margaritaville in Key West and got to stay there an extra day... I was jealous of the non-sick ones.

0 ^ | | v • Share ›

[-VashTS](#) → [wpcarter711](#) • 12 days ago

Same here.

0 ^ | | v • Share ›

[stupidscreenname](#) → [wpcarter711](#) • 13 days ago

well don't stop there... keep improving and moving forward! Scouts is a great start, but it's just a foundation in growing up.

0 ^ | | v • Share ›

[Acesonnall](#) → [NotMordecai](#) • 12 days ago

Ditto.

1 ^ | | v • Share ›

[Noatak](#) → [NotMordecai](#) • 7 days ago

Dang it! I just set up my eagle project!

0 ^ | 1 v • [Share](#) ›

[FrankieJCool](#) → [Bane\\_Chain](#) • 13 days ago

i'll be an eagles scout by the end of this month if my board of review goes well.

35 ^ | 1 v • [Share](#) ›

[Bane\\_Chain](#) → [FrankieJCool](#) • 13 days ago

Hey good luck!

29 ^ | 1 v • [Share](#) ›

[kohakaisha](#) → [FrankieJCool](#) • 13 days ago

Your Board of Review is an opportunity to share & reflect on all your experiences in Scouting. Have fun and enjoy it!

9 ^ | 1 v • [Share](#) ›

[stupidscreenname](#) → [FrankieJCool](#) • 13 days ago

Good job, man! Keep it up. And don't quit after that. Move on to using the same principles as an adult. : )

4 ^ | 1 v • [Share](#) ›

[Last2Jog](#) → [FrankieJCool](#) • 13 days ago

Best of luck!

1 ^ | 1 v • [Share](#) ›

[mr.game](#) → [FrankieJCool](#) • 12 days ago

I'm a First class scout. And I've been in scouts since December, 2011 and I love it. But I have to say, I can't stand whats happening with the whole thing. If it does get pasted than I'm going to have to drop out.

0 ^ | 1 v • [Share](#) ›

[Last2Jog](#) → [mr.game](#) • 11 days ago

Whether or not openly gay scouts are allowed to charter with your troop/pack/etc. is based on the supporting organization's (for instance my school) decision. From there it also goes through the committee.

Even so, if it does pass, give the new ruling a chance before dropping out. It seems rather silly to give up on such a great program for something that may not effect you at all in the long run.

0 ^ | 1 v • [Share](#) ›

[Arec Barrwin](#) → [FrankieJCool](#) • 13 days ago

Good Luck!!

0 ^ | 1 v • [Share](#) ›

[AngryMonkey72](#) → [Bane\\_Chain](#) • 13 days ago

I was very close to becoming an eagle scout, then I found out they wouldn't let a friend join because he had 2 dads. I threw my scarf away and burned my badges.

42 ^ | 7 v • [Share](#) ›

[ZAP\\_ZAP](#) → [AngryMonkey72](#) • 13 days ago

Such a shame you thought with your emotions so rashly. Many Eagle Scouts (such as myself) don't agree with the policy and use our rank to write letters to BSA. The media, along with the countless families affected, have also chimed in. This is why BSA is reconsidering their position.

20 ^ | 1 v • [Share](#) ›

[AngryMonkey72](#) → [ZAP\\_ZAP](#) • 13 days ago

Maybe it was rash, but when my friend found out what I did, he cried and hugged me because I was the only one who stood up for him. At that moment I knew I did the right thing. This was 23 years ago and the BSA position is the same. I don't regret what I did.

34 ^ | 2 v • [Share](#) ›

[ZAP\\_ZAP](#) → [AngryMonkey72](#) • 13 days ago

Your actions exemplify the tenets of an Eagle Scout. Had I known this happened 23 years ago, I wouldn't have commented. The political climate today is certainly much different than it used to be. It's much easier to be vocal about this topic. Sorry for sounding patronizing.

17 ^ | 1 v • Share ›

[AngryMonkey72](#) → ZAP\_ZAP • 13 days ago

I appreciate that, but there's no need to apologize as I had not stated originally when it had occurred. I have been filled with a certain amount of pride when I've read about Eagle Scouts pushing the BSA for change. It's a shame they're considering passing the buck instead of taking a fair stance. If gays and lesbians are good enough for our armed forces, why aren't they good enough for Scouts?

14 ^ | 1 v • Share ›

[funwithscience](#) → AngryMonkey72 • 13 days ago

Could I upvote you twice, I would. I quit boy scouts for a much stupider reason.

5 ^ | 1 v • Share ›

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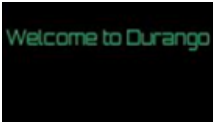


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