Scouting Footwear

The purpose of this document is to educate scouts on the type of footwear that is appropriate for scouting activities. In general, the shoe must provide some protection and be fastened to the foot. A red outlined shoe is never allowed at a troop function. A yellow outline is a shoe is one that may be used under certain circumstances. A green-outlined shoes is a good choice, and can be used at scouting functions. Under no circumstances is a scout allowed to be barefoot. If you have any questions ask the scoutmaster before wearing the shoe.

Picture	Description	Pros	Cons	Notes
	Old pair of tennis shoes	 The shoe already fits, and is less likely to give blisters Every scout has a pair, and this is the most economical footwear 	 Scouts often wait until a shoe is not wearable before replacing Small holes and separated soles can become larger under outdoor hiking use 	 Some shoe problems can be fixed with a shoe glue or epoxy Acceptable for all scouting activities
	Hiking boots	 They provide much more support Usually made from thick leather and can do a great job protecting the feet Often have deep treads that provide good traction 	 Can be expensive Can be very heavy, especially when wet They don't allow your feet to breathe, if you wear them all day and they get wet, they can cause problems They take a long time to break in 	 They are a great investment for older scouts who have stopped growing Wear for at least 1 month before a hike
	Service boot	• They have the same pros and cons of a hiking boot, but generally offer better ankle support	 Some people find them very uncomfortable to wear and they can take a long time to get use too 	 Tend to be more expensive then a hiking boot Not recommend to buy cheap ones
	Crocs	 Comfortable Light weight 	They cannot be fastened to your feet and could come off. They can also become slippery when wet, and your foot can slide around inside the shoe	 Since they can not be fastened to your foot they are not allowed on campouts
	Full strap sandal	 Allows your foot to breathe Great for use in water and sandy areas Can be adjusted to fit your foot Dry quickly Light weight 	 Toes are exposed and unprotected Based on the design, if one strap or buckle fails the whole sandal will fail Offers no protection to the top of your foot from sharp items or the sun 	 Great for water activities Not recommended for long hikes Some camps do not allow open toes shoes except for at the waterfront. Scouts must walk to the water front in closed toed shoes

Full- coverage sandal	 Offers more protection then a full strap sandal Allows your foot to breathe 	 Odd sun burn patterns Takes longer to dry than a full strap sandal Not good for sandy or pebble beaches 	 Makes a great camp shoe after a long hike in hiking boots Great for water activities
Flip-flop	• None	 They are a potential trip hazard Usually cheaply made Offer no foot protection 	 If you have a pair leave them at home
Thong sandal	• None	 They are a potential trip hazard Usually cheaply made Offer no foot protection 	 If you have a pair leave them at home
Water shoe (no fastener)	 good for activities in or near a treated pools 	 They may come off in mud or high current. 	 Since they can not be fastened to your foot they are not allowed on campouts
Water shoe (with elastic fastener)	 good for activities in or near a treated pools 	 While they give the appearance of being able to be fastened, the elastic will wear away over time Loose elastic laces can become a trip hazard 	 Due to the potential for these shoes to come off in mud or water, they should not be used while canoeing
Water shoe with fastener	 Allows your foot to breathe Great for use in the water Can be fastened to fit your foot Dry quickly Light weight Can provide sun protection Provides toe protection 	 Not good for sandy beaches Can be expensive Special care is needed to prevent them from becoming moldy 	 Make sure shoes are dried before storage Recommend washing with soap after prolonged use
Specialty shoes. I.E. Scuba, rain boot, cowboy boots, Snow shoes, dress shoes Ballet shoes	 Specially shoes are designed for a particular activity, and may be used in certain circumstances 	 Tend to be expensive Using them for activities that they are not designed may result in them breaking 	 Specialty shoes should never be your primary shoe on a campout

