

# BSA Interpreter Strip



Can any scouts or scouters in your unit speak a foreign language?

Is someone in your unit proficient in sign language?

How does someone earn the interpreter strip?

The requirements for the interpreter strip, quoted from Scouting.org, are as follows:

*Youth and adults may wear this strip if they show their knowledge of a foreign language or the sign language for the hearing impaired by:*

1. *Carrying on a five-minute conversation in this language.*
2. *Translating a two-minute speech or address.*
3. *Writing a letter in the language (does not apply for sign language).*
4. *Translating 200 words from the written word.*

## General Instructions

1. The scout contacts a counselor for the appropriate language. A list of counselors can be found on the council's website. A scout is not limited to these counselors and can work with anyone who is qualified.
2. The scout can use the "Interpreter Strip Application" form found on the council's website to record and document his progress. Use of this or any form is not required, but it is helpful.
3. Once the scout completes the requirements, he takes documentation of his completion to his Scoutmaster or adult unit leader.

Where can I find a counselor?

A list of counselors for various languages is posted on the council website.

Who can be a counselor?

Unlike merit badges, counselors for the interpreter strip do not have to be registered scouters. Counselors can be anyone fluent in another language or signing and are often a high school foreign language teacher. On the council's website, there is a document called "Interpreter Strip Counselor Info," which the scout should provide for the counselor if he does not already have it.

Is the application form necessary?

Scouts and units do not have to use the application form available on the council's website. The purpose of the form is to facilitate a scout's earning of the interpreter strip and to serve as a record for the unit. National BSA does not have a standardized application for the interpreter strip like the blue cards for merit badges.

What if I need a counselor for a language not listed in the counselor contacts?

If you cannot find a counselor for the language you need, contact the council office.

Related Documents on the Chief Cornplanter Council Website:

Interpreter Strip Counselor Info, dated October 2013

Record of Earning the Interpreter Strip, dated October 2013

List of local Counselors, dated March 2014