



Guideline for Veteran Interviews

Thank you for participating in SCOVETH (Virginia **SC**outing and **VET**erans Oral **H**istory Project), a collaborative effort between the Virginia War Memorial and the BSA Heart of Virginia Council. The purpose of the project is to unite scouts and Virginia military veterans in safe and educational forums to memorialize Virginia's veteran and scouting history through oral history interviews.

Please review the guidelines below as it lists important information about preparing for the interview, its structure, and some pertinent information when being interviewed.

Preparing for the Interview

1. Expect communications to come from adult leaders. They will handle the forms and arrangements for the interviews. If you have any questions, please direct them to the leader that reached out to you.
2. A general list of topic areas you will be asked about include:
 - a. early life (family history of scouting or military service)
 - b. joining the Scouts and scouting experience and memories (if applicable)
 - c. joining the military, training; assignments and career
 - d. core memories and key events from Scouting experience and military experience
 - e. discharge/retirement from the military
 - f. life as a veteran and former Scout (if applicable)
3. Complete the biographical form. The form helps the interviewer get to know you and it helps you begin to recall stories.
4. Review photographs, letters, and other related material. Like the biographical form, it will help you recall memories. You might even bring a few of these to the interview.
5. These interviews will be recorded using a camcorder (or another recording device) at various locations (such as libraries, etc.) and typically take 30 to 1 hour. A Scout (along with an adult leader) will ask you questions pertaining to subjects listed in #2.

Things to Keep in Mind

1. Your interviewer will be a Scout (11 to 18 years old) and as such we ask that you avoid the use of following when sharing your story:
 - a. Profanity and graphic language
 - b. Graphic descriptions of violence or death
 - c. Drugs and Alcohol
 - d. Sexual content/ sexuality

❖ Adult leaders will be with the interviewer and may pause or guide the interview away from such topics.

2. These interviews will be made available to the public via the Virginia War Memorial archives.
 - a. Oral history interviews are used for research, educational programming, study, and display.
 - b. If you have more questions about this, please contact the VWM Archivist Sylvia Marshall via telephone (804-786-1468) or email (sylvia.marshall@dvs.virginia.gov).
3. An oral history interview is about the narrator (you). This is your story. You can stop the interview at any time, or you can choose not to answer certain questions.
 - a. Please let the interviewer and their adult leader know before the interview if there are topics you wish to avoid.
4. You will be doing most of the talking. Feel free to tell your favorite memories or stories.
5. Most questions will be "open-ended" questions, that allow you to explain details of your military service and experience as a Scout.
6. You are prohibited from requesting personal contact information of the Scout interviewer and providing personal contact information to them. All communications for this project will be handled by the adult leadership of the project.