

QUEER SCOUTS BOSTON

MISSION, TENETS & VALUES



Queer *kwi(ə)ɪr/ Adjective, Noun*

1. (n) Anyone who wants to identify as queer
2. (adj) Feeling, presenting, or behaving outside of society's norms in regard to gender, sexuality or/and even politics.

Examples: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans*, Ally, Gender Fluid Person, Person Questioning Sexuality or Gender

Queer Scouts Mission Statement:

Queer Scouts is committed to fostering inclusive, diverse, and fun monthly get-togethers for adults by challenging societal norms, empowering authentic self-expression, and building a thriving community through skill-shares, outdoor activities, dialogue, shared meals, and cooperative play. As queer/trans folks who missed out on Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts as kids, this is an opportunity to gain skills, move our bodies, volunteer for our communities, and enjoy the outdoors.

What Is Queer Scouts?

Queer Scouts is a group of queer/trans adults and allies who get together at monthly participant-led skill-shares and outdoor adventures in the greater Boston area. Skill shares may include: bike maintenance, archery, baking/cooking, gardening, sailing, climbing, astronomy, ceramics and music in addition to traditional scouting activities such as making a fire, first-aid, backpacking etc. The sky is the limit! In addition to these skill shares there will be an annual camping trip as well as volunteering opportunities (traditionally called Citizenship in the Boy Scouts) within our communities. There will be badges for each skill learned and an annual zine created of what we've done.

Tenets:

- **Radical Inclusion:** We strive to create an environment where anyone could feel welcome and included. Everyone has had a variety of experiences throughout their lives that impact the way they see the world. Inevitably, when we gather, there might be conflicting attitudes and language used. Everyone is encouraged to urge each other to create inclusive language, behaviors, and philosophies.
- **Drugs and Alcohol:** Queer events are often fueled by alcohol and the commodification of sex. We strive to create an environment that focuses on connection. We ask that alcohol and drug use are not used during camp trips (and community events) and strive to create a space that is free from the "hook up" culture that can be intimidating and exclusive.
- **Participants Create:** Queer Scouts is an experimentation built by participants. Workshops, meals, clean up, set up, etc, is all built on participants signing up to help and create it!
- **Growth:** With integrity and compassion, we will stretch together to develop a culture that cares for all of us!

Values:

- **Gender/Identity Respect:** We respect and celebrate that everyone has a dynamic identity and we want that identity to shine and grow!
- **Acknowledge Injustices:** We acknowledge that the current social systems are inherently unjust and we strive to recreate systems that serve all of us.
- **Fun/Play:** We believe that because there is so much pain and suffering in the world, we all deserve a break. We strive to create connection and relief through fun and playful skillshares!
- **Health:** We strive to create an environment that provides healthy food, emotional support, and care.
- **Connection & Education:** We believe we can all teach each other. We encourage connection, education, and sharing.
- **Volunteering:** Giving time and love to our communities.