

Catalina Council

Boy Scouts of America



A year round guide to Scout Recruitment

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Note: Information in this booklet can be copied as needed.

Troop Scouting Recruiting Overview

The purpose of this recruitment effort is to invite boys and their parents to join Scouting. This campaign targets Webelos, non-Scouts or former Scouts that are no longer in the program.

Webelos to Scout Transition

An effective Webelos to Scout Transition plan is essential for retaining our current Cub Scouts by moving them into a Scout troop. Webelos crossovers represent our largest source of new Scouts and the continued health of every Scout troop. The key elements to Webelos to Scout Transition involve continuous interaction between Webelos dens and a Scout troop throughout the entire Webelos program, selecting energetic Webelos Den Chiefs, educating Webelos, Webelos leaders and parents about the Scout BSA program. Troops should host several "Skills Nights", attend Webelos den meetings, promote summer camp and invite Webelos to visit their troop at Scout summer camp, visit Webelos dens at Webelos Adventure Camp, share their program calendar and invite Webelos to camp with the Scout troop and participate in the annual Webelos Crossover Ceremony.

Elementary Schools

When starting the 5th grade, many students are already 11 years old. Also, many of our council's elementary schools include 6th grade classrooms. A Scout flyer should be handed to these youth inviting them back to the school the same night as the pack's school night for Cub Scouting. An 11-year old table should be set up in the cafeteria for these youth to sit at. After the opening ceremony and group sparkler, this table will be dismissed to the library or other pre-arranged room for a separate meeting. The Scout troop or Webelos II Den should provide the opening ceremony and have at least 1 adult present as part of the School Night team to run the Scout breakout portion of the meeting.



Skills Nights/New Parent Orientation

Both spring and fall the troop should host a Skills Night for Webelos in conjunction with a parent orientation for their parents. The Skills Night should include hands-on, Scout skill-oriented activities for Webelos, and "showcase" your troop's programs and inform Scouts and their parents about the Scout program. A suggested back dater and agenda for the troop Skills Night is in this manual. In addition to inviting Webelos Scouts and their parents to the Skills Night, troops should also use these events as opportunities for recruiting new Scouts and/or inviting back Scout age youth who are no longer registered.

Peer-to-Peer Recruiting

Current members are our best recruiters. Scouts should be encouraged to invite a friend to troop meetings and activities (campouts etc.) throughout the year. An organized Peer-to-Peer recruiting campaign should happen at least annually inviting potential Scouts to a special Skills Night with Webelos. This program will help youth fulfill the new first class rank requirement of inviting another youth do join Scouting. Each Scout will receive a special recruiter patch for recruiting their friends.

Parent-to-Parent Recruiting

Parents of existing Scouts should be encouraged to talk about the positive benefits of Scouting to their child's social group (neighbors, friends, Sunday school class, relatives, etc.). School directories could be used to organize a call night to talk to other parents about the Scout program.

Where else to get names of those interested in Scouting

There are several other ways to get a list of potential Boy Scouts to invite to a Troop Skills Night or special recruiting event/activity. High Adventure surveys conducted at local 6th, 7th, and 8th grades give a good list of youth that expressed an interest in Scouting or those that expressed an interest in the things Scouts do. Your District Executive can provide you a list of Webelos that did not cross over in to Scouting, Scouts that dropped out of the program and camp referral lists.

Scouts BSA Recruiting Timeline

January

- Attend a meeting of first year Webelos Scouts to introduce them to Scouting
- Host second year Webelos Scouts and their parents at a troop meeting
- Plan a bridging ceremony for the Blue and Gold Banquet in February to welcome graduating Webelos Scouts into their new Troop

February

- Schedule a skills night for March / April for Webelos, prospective new Scouts and their parents
- Hold the bridging ceremony at the Blue and Gold Banquet
- Recruit parents of new Scouts to become Assistant Scoutmasters or Troop Committee Members.

March

- Plan a May troop activity for new Scouts to get them involved with their new Troop
- Make sure Troop Guides and Patrol Advisors are clear on their responsibilities regarding the new Scouts

April

- Conduct skills night for Webelos and a concurrent informational meeting for parents (invite them to summer camp for one day)
- Patrols / troop run peer to peer recruiting event (patrols with less than 6-8 boys)
- Follow up with all new Scouts to ensure they are going to summer camp
- Conduct summer camp orientation to encourage Troop – and especially new Scout – involvement.
- Be certain new Scouts know where they can turn for help by giving them time to become familiar with their Troop Guide and Patrol Advisors

May

- Sponsor a Troop activity that focuses on new Scouts
- Work closely with new Scouts and parents during their transition to the Scout Troop, ensuring their needs are met and that their move has been natural and fun
- Work on rank advancement with new Scouts

June/July

- Ensure that all new Scouts attend summer camp
- Troop Leader and Senior Patrol Leader to visit Webelos at Webelos Adventure Camp
- Webelos visit troop at Scout summer camp
- After consulting with Pack Leaders, appoint Den Chiefs

July

- Hold informal individual conferences with parents of new Scouts to provide an opportunity for feedback on Troop and Patrol operations
- Continue to work closely with the new Scouts in an effort to instill self-confidence and comfort in participation within the Patrol and Troop
- Develop church bulletin insert (template available from your District Executive))
- Get names, addresses and phone numbers of second-year Webelos Scouts Record the information on the Webelos to Scout Tracking Form

August

- If troop has website, develop slide show or video with summer camp photos
- Work with church to place church insert in bulletin
- Mail introductory letter from troop to Second-Year Webelos Scouts
- Put Webelos on list to get Troop newsletter
- Plan joint Patrol/Den, Troop/Pack activities
- Plan for Den visits in November to present program calendar
- Have a booth/display at the school's textbook pick up

September

- Attend school open house and set up display
- Attend pack's school night and recruit 11 year old youth
- Patrols / troop conduct peer to peer recruiting
- Continue planning joint activities
- Have a strong showing at Camporees, Cub Scout events for Cub Scout observation (Entire Troop)

October

- Conduct joint camping trip and skills night with Webelos den
 - During these activities, explain to Webelos Scouts the Patrol Method, and point out examples of how it is being used
 - Let Webelos Scouts participate just as the Scouts, within BSA guidelines

November

- Contact youth that have stopped coming to meetings
- Conduct membership inventory; verify all youth and adults are registered correctly
- Present program calendar at a Webelos den meeting
- Make sure Den Chiefs register for and attend training
- Follow up with youth who are not active and Invite them back to Scouts before recharter so they don't drop

December

- Set a date and invite Webelos Scouts and their parents to visit a Troop meeting in January
- Follow up the invitations with personal phone calls to the parents of the Webelos Scouts

School Night for Scouting

Script for program in conjunction with School Night for Cub Scouting

I. Pre-Opening – 30 minutes before the opening School Night Coordinator

- A. Have the Troop set up displays (picture boards, tents, awards, pioneering projects, etc. outside, in the hallway, and/or in the breakout room for the 11 year old boys). Have the Pack set up displays (picture boards, pinewood derby track, crafts, etc. Pack displays should be set up in the cafeteria or main meeting room for the school night. Put directional signs on entrance doors with directions to the meeting room.
- B. Be prepared with pre-opening activities to keep boys and parents involved.
 1. Meeting can be killed quickly with uncontrolled running, shouting and horseplay.
 2. Use the following suggestions to keep the group under control.
 - a. Have parents and boys stay seated together at their grade appropriate table
 - b. Have games
 - c. Show of Boy Scout displays
- C. Have table tents and den/patrol flags to tell people where to sit (by grade). Make sure to have plenty of pens at each table. Direct every youth over 11 years of age to the "Scout" table
- D. Utilize current adult leadership to keep boys and parents in assigned room and out of the halls and other areas.
- E. Have parents fill out the attendance roster as they arrive (this is different than the den roster they fill out later).
- F. Distribute *Parent Orientation Guide*, *Scouts' Life* Mini Magazine, and any other pack information as people sign in. For youth over 11 years of age, give them the *Scouts' Life* Mini Magazine, and other troop information as people sign in.
- G. Have parents fill out den/patrol roster sheet after they are seated at the correct table. This will be used by the Den Leader/Scoutmaster to find out who is in their den/troop and to make sure they are contacted about the first den/troop meeting.

II. Opening School Night Coordinator

Good evening and welcome everyone. I am _____, and I have been a Scout leader for _____. I am looking forward to spending some time with you this evening and sharing with you how you can get involved with your child in a great family program.

Our goal this evening is to accomplish the three things outlined on the first page of the Parent's Guide:

- Inform you about the Cub Scouting or Scouting program
- Sign up youth for Cub Scouting/ Scouting - now how many kids here want to be a Cub Scout/ Scout? Show me your hand.
- Organize our dens/patrols.

I would like to start off our evening with an opening ceremony by Scouts of Pack/Troop _____.

(Scouts to conduct a brief opening ceremony and/or posting of colors, Pledge of Allegiance, etc.)
(After the Pledge of Allegiance, 11 year olds are dismissed to another room for their portion of the meeting. Scoutmaster/Assistant Scoutmaster runs the 11 year-old breakout. The school Night team continues on with the Cub Scout School Night.

Scout Breakout

Have the Senior Patrol Leader show contents of his backpack and explain what they need to bring camping, and how to pack it. Focus on items that the child most likely already has so he/his parents don't have to go out and purchase new camping materials immediately. Hand out the "*Your first campout*" materials list and tell time/date/location of their first campout. Have them bring these materials to the first troop meeting to make sure they are properly prepared. Explain that the troop meets weekly (time/date/location) to review/learn skills needed on campouts and to plan outings.

While the Senior Patrol Leader is doing this with the "Scouts", the Scoutmaster can talk to the parents about the troop. Talk about troop meeting times, campouts, and troop committee times. Hand out annual program plan to parents and briefly review. Explain how parents can be involved in the Scout program such as troop committee positions and Assistant Scoutmaster position. Ask parents to complete applications and collect registration fees which should be turned in with the Cub Scout School Night applications to the School Night Coordinator or District Scout Executive. Registration materials will be available with the School Night crates.

Scout Recruiting **Your First Outdoor Campout**

- _____ **Backpack** (and/or large sports equipment bag, and/or duffel bag. Line it with a lawn bag first, to keep contents dry.)
- _____ **Sleeping Bag** (or blankets)
- _____ **Closed-cell foam camp sleeping pad**
- _____ **Raincoat or Poncho**
- _____ **Warm Jacket**
- _____ **Extra pair of pants**
- _____ **Sweater and/or Sweatshirt**
- _____ **Long sleeve shirt**
- _____ **Short sleeve shirt**
- _____ **Underwear**
- _____ **Hat**
- _____ **Mess-kit (bowl, cup, fork, spoon, plate)**
- _____ **2 one-quart water bottles**
- _____ **Flashlight and extra batteries**
- _____ **Small first aid kit**
- _____ **Pen and pocket notepad/ Boy Scout Handbook**
- _____ **Personal Toiletries** (Toothbrush, toothpaste, small hand soap, comb, towel, toilet paper, etc.)

Troop Skills Night

SKILLS NIGHT TIMELINE

Recruiting Event minus 4 weeks – Scoutmaster sets “Skills Night” date with the District Membership team. Invite first and second year Webelos den(s) to participate, Webelos Scouts, leaders and parents should attend the Skills Night. Share the Skills Night program materials with the troop’s youth leadership to prepare and practice for the Skills Night. The District Membership team can provide contact information for Webelos den leaders and Scouts. The Skills Night is a good opportunity to recruit youth who are not currently registered in Scouting, lists of separated Scouts and lists of potential new Scouts from High Adventure Surveys may be obtained from your District Scout Executive. You may also chose to conduct a peer to peer recruiting campaign; information on peer to peer recruiting is included in this guide.

Minus 1 week – Scoutmaster confirms Webelos II den will attend school night. During the patrol meeting part of the troop meeting, review the names that your troop brainstormed during summer camp, list of separated Webelos, list of separated Scouts, and names from High Adventure Surveys. Have each Scout sign up to personally invite one or two youth on the list to the Skills Night. Review and plan the Skills Night program. Make assignments to youth and adults. Provide Scout recruiting fliers to schools and church bulletin insert highlighting your troop’s programs and inviting youth to the Skills Night.

Minus 1 or 2 days – The District Scout Executive will conduct boy talk at local 6th, 7th, and 8th Grades and obtain names and phone numbers of boys interested in joining. Personally follow up within 24 hours with each interested boy to invite to recruiting event. A Skills Night “kit” is available from the council service center.

Day of event – Make fun, exciting, and hands on.

Within 1 week – Youth should attend 1st troop meeting to prepare for 1st campout, get an introduction to some of the requirements for Tenderfoot, and introduce the patrol method. A sample agenda for this meeting and sample personal equipment list is included in this guide. Follow up with any guests who were suppose to attend but did not and invite them to your troop meeting.

Within 2 weeks – Boy’s first outing (sample agenda for the first campout is included in this guide)

Troop skills night Agenda

1. Pre-Opening _____

- Conduct a simple action game for early arrivals.

2. Opening _____

- Flag Ceremony _____
- Welcome to the guest _____

3. Activity Time _____

A. Skill time for youth _____

- Hot spark _____
- Knot relay _____
- Map and Compass _____
- Initiative Games _____
- First campout equipment list demonstration _____

B. Parent Orientation _____

- Explain the ideals and values of Scouting _____
- Introduce the troop leadership and its organization. _____
- Distribute the troop calendar. _____
- Explain the summer camp opportunity. _____
- Thoroughly explain the costs of troop membership. _____

4. Joining Process _____

- Youth and parents complete applications to join Scouting.
- Announce information about the next troop meeting.

5. Closing _____

- Scoutmaster's Minute Scoutmaster
- Closing Ceremony _____

6. Refreshments (Optional) _____

Skills Night Kit's

Contents:

6 Hot Spark kits
half bag Cotton balls
3 Aluminum pie pans
6 6' lengths of rope for knot tying
4 "*Knots and How to Tie Them*" pamphlet
1 Topographic map
1 Compass
1 Instruction sheet for initiative games
1 Set of 4 posters for parents meeting
10 Copies of "*Your First Outdoor Campout*" personal equipment list handout
1 Scout Handbook
10 Youth Applications
10 Adult Applications
1 box pens

Fire Starting – Have an adult or older Scout demonstrate how to properly use a hot spark. Sit a cotton ball in the middle of an Aluminum pie pan and have youth try to ignite it. **Have a way to quickly extinguish the fire nearby!** Best to use something you can simply press down on cotton ball to smother flame. Also wise to have water nearby.

Knot Tying – Give each youth a "*Knots and How to Tie Them*" pamphlet and a length of rope. Demonstrate and let the youth practice tying the following knots: square knot, bowline, taut-line hitch, and two ½ hitches. Discuss how and why each knot is used.

Orienteering – Orientate the map. Locate a river, ridge, valley, county road, gentle slope, cliff, steep slope, and lake.

Initiative Games – These are team games that are fun, but also teach teamwork.

First Campout Equipment List – Show youth an example of the personal camping equipment they will need for their first campout and hand them the sample personal equipment list located in this guide. Each boy should bring the items on the list to their first troop meeting (sample first troop meeting located in this guide).

Parent's meeting – While youth are participating in the round-robin skills instruction, Scoutmaster or Committee Chairman should talk to the parents about the Aims and Methods of Scouting, how parents should be involved, and share the annual program plan including meeting dates and campouts. Give list of materials needed for first campout.

Initiative Game List

Helium Stick

- Deceptively simple but powerful exercise for learning how to work together and communicate in small to medium sized groups.
- Line up in two rows which face each other.
- Introduce the Helium Stick - a long, thin, light rod. (Dome poles work great!)
- Ask participants to point their index fingers and hold their out.
- Lay the Helium Stick down on their fingers. Get the group to their finger heights until the Helium Stick is horizontal and everyone's index fingers are touching the stick.
- Explain that the challenge is to lower the Helium Stick to the ground.
- The catch: Each person's fingers must be in contact with the Helium Stick at all times. Pinching or grabbing the pole is not allowed - it must rest on top of fingers.
- Reiterate to the group that if anyone's finger is caught not touching the Helium Stick, the task will be restarted. Let the task begin....
- Warning: Particularly in the early stages, the Helium Stick has a habit of mysteriously float up rather than coming down, causing much laughter. A bit of clever humoring can help - e.g., act surprised and ask what are they doing raising the Helium Stick instead of lowering it! For added drama, jump up and pull it down!
- Participants may be confused initially about the paradoxical behavior of the Helium Stick. The secret (keep it to yourself) is that the collective upwards pressure tends to be greater than the weight of the stick. Often the more a group tries, the more it floats.
- Some groups or individuals (most often larger size groups) after 5 to 10 minutes of trying may be inclined to give up, believing it not to be possible or that it is too hard.
- The facilitator can offer direct suggestions or suggest the group stops the task, discusses their strategy, and then has another go.
- Less often, a group may appear to be succeeding too fast. In response, be particularly vigilant about fingers not touching the pole. Also make sure participants lower the pole all the way onto the ground. You can add further difficulty by adding a large washer to each end of the stick and explain that the washers should not fall off during the exercise, otherwise it's a restart.
- Eventually the group needs to calm down, concentrate, and very slowly, patiently lower the Helium Stick - easier said than done.



Processing Ideas

- What was the initial reaction of the group?
- How well did the group cope with this challenge?
- What skills did it take to be successful as a group?
- What creative solutions were suggested and how were they received?
- What would an outside observer have seen as the strengths and weaknesses of the group?
- What did each group member learn about him/her self as an individual?
- What other situations (e.g., at school, home or work) are like the Helium Stick?

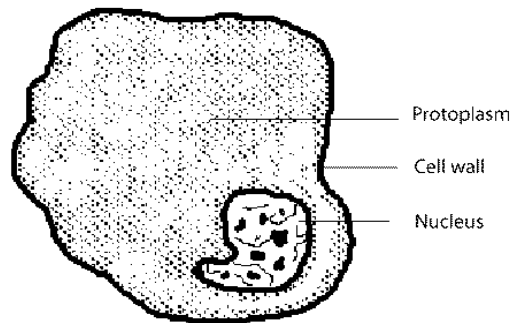
Mine Field

- A popular, engaging game involving communication and trust. Works for groups of various types and sizes. Moderately complex. The task is very flexible.
- The goal is to traverse, with eyes closed or blindfolded, a designated area full of obstacles without touching any obstacle or any person.
- Select a "playing field". Go outside, if possible. But can be done inside, even in rooms with fixed furniture (which can become objects to be avoided).
- http://www.wilderdom.com/store/index.php?main_page=product_info&cPath=2_68&products_id=17 Distribute "mines" e.g., balls or other objects such as bowling pins, cones, foam noodles, books, backpacks, etc.
- Establish a concentrating and caring tone for this activity. Trust exercises require a serious atmosphere to help develop a genuine sense of trust and safety.
- Participants can begin by trying to cross the field by themselves. In a second round, participants can then ask someone else to help them traverse the field by "talking" them through the field.
- Participants operate in pairs. Consider how the pairs are formed - it's a chance to work on relationships. One person is blindfolded (or keeps eyes closed) and (optional) cannot talk. The other person can see and talk, but cannot enter the field or touch the person.
- The challenge is for each blind-folded person to walk from one side of the field to the other, avoiding the mines, by listening to the verbal instructions of their partners.
- Be wary of blindfolded people bumping into each other. The instructor(s) can float around the playing area to help prevent collisions.
- Decide on the penalty for hitting a mine. It could be a restart (serious consequence) or time penalty or simply a count of hits, but without penalty.
- Allow participants a short period (e.g., 3 minutes) of planning time to decide on their communication commands. It can help participants if you suggest that they each develop a unique communication system. When participants swap roles, give participants some review and planning time to refine their communication method.
- Allow participants to swap over and even have several attempts, until a real, satisfied sense of skill and competence in being able to guide a partner through a minefield develops.
- The activity can be conducted one pair at a time (e.g., in a therapeutic situation), or with all pairs at once (creates a more demanding exercise due to the extra noise/confusion).
- Can be conducted as a competitive task - e.g., which pair is the quickest or has the fewest hits?
- The facilitator plays an important role in creating an optimal level of challenge, e.g., considers introducing more items or removing items if it seems too easy or too hard. Also consider coaching participants with communication methods (e.g., for younger students, hint that they could benefit from coming up with clear commands for stop, forward, left, right, etc.).
- Be cautious about blind-folding people - it can provoke trust and care issues and trigger post-traumatic reactions. Minimize this risk by sequencing Mine Field within a longer program involving other get-to-know-you and trust building activities before Mine Field.



Amoeba Race

- A fun game, using a basic biology concept of a cell
- Requires cooperation, competition and close physical interaction. Useful as a simple activity to help groups get comfortable with one another.
- Explain how to create an amoeba. There are 3 parts:
 - a lot of protoplasm
(people who don't mind being close, gather together)
 - a cell wall
(people who like to contain themselves & others, surround the protoplasm, facing outward, linking elbows)
 - a nucleus
(someone with good eyesight and the ability to keep on top of things should be the nucleus, seated on the shoulders of some of the protoplasm)
- Once the amoeba is formed, try taking a walk through a field or around the block. A rhythmic chant might be helpful for coordinating movements. (What sort of sound does a one-celled creature make?)
- Finally, try a little cell division. Split into two, create a second nucleus and have an Amoeba Race.



Your First Outdoor Campout Personal Equipment List

- _____ **Backpack** (and/or large sports equipment bag, and/or duffel bag. Line it with a lawn bag first, to keep contents dry.)
- _____ **Sleeping Bag** (or blankets)
- _____ **Closed-cell foam camp sleeping pad**
- _____ **Raincoat or Poncho**
- _____ **Warm Jacket**
- _____ **Extra pair of pants**
- _____ **Sweater and/or Sweatshirt**
- _____ **Long sleeve shirt**
- _____ **Short sleeve shirt**
- _____ **Underwear**
- _____ **Hat**
- _____ **Mess-kit (bowl, cup, fork, spoon, plate)**
- _____ **2 one-quart water bottles**
- _____ **Flashlight and extra batteries**
- _____ **Small first aid kit**
- _____ **Pen and pocket notepad/ Scout Handbook**
- _____ **Personal Toiletries** (Toothbrush, toothpaste, small hand soap, comb, towel toilet paper, etc.)

First Troop Meeting Agenda For new Scouts

The purpose of this meeting is to have a fun-filled first meeting that accomplishes 3 goals:

1. Prepares the new Scout for his first campout with the troop (ideally the next weekend).
2. Introduces the new Scout to the patrol method.
3. Introduces the new Scout to the advancement program, especially the Tenderfoot requirements.

Activity	Description	Run By	Time
Pre-Opening 10 Minutes	Conduct a “shake down” of camping equipment of your new Scouts to make sure they are ready for their first campout. Make sure your troop has enough tents/patrol equipment for their first campout (ideally the upcoming weekend)	Senior patrol leader, Troop Guide	6:55-7:05
Opening 5 Minutes	Pledge of Allegiance, Scout Oath, Scout Law	Senior patrol leader	7:05-7:10
Skills Instruction 25 Minutes	Tenderfoot requirements round robin. The purpose is to introduce requirements, not master/complete them. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First aid – simple cuts and scratches, blisters on the hand/foot, minor burns, insect bites, nosebleeds, sunburn/frostbite, poisonous snakes • Physical Fitness – Push-ups, Pull-ups, Sit-ups, Standing long jump, ¼ mile walk/run • Knots – two half hitches, taut-line hitch 	Troop Guide, selected troop members, Assistant Scoutmaster	7:10-7:35
Patrol Meetings 15 Minutes	Assign each scout to an existing new scout patrol or create a new one. Elect a Patrol Leader and Assistant. Troop guide shows how to plan a menu and duty roster.	Troop guide	7:35-7:50
Inter-Patrol Activity 10 Minutes	Select a game out of “ <i>Troop Program Resources.</i> ”	Senior patrol leader	7:50-8:00
Closing 5 Minutes	SPL thanks Webelos for attending meeting. Leads in closing Flag Ceremony.	Senior patrol leader	8:00-8:05
After the meeting	Call all new scouts, thank them for coming and remind them of the campout this weekend.	Scoutmaster	

Peer to Peer Recruiting

Objective: The “Peer to Peer” recruiting campaign is designed to ensure more boys are given the opportunity to join the Scout program. This campaign supports your troop’s efforts to involve more youth through Skills Night and inviting a friend to an outing. This campaign will give your Scouts some recruitment tools, and the desire, to recruit their two best friends to join Scouting with them. Your current Scouts will have more fun if their friends join with them, and they will stay in Scouting longer. There will be less negative peer pressure when their friends are also in Scouts. In addition, with the 1st class rank requirement to ask a friend to join Scouting, we are giving them the tools to be successful.

Timeline: Units may conduct a “peer to peer” recruiting campaign throughout the year but has been most successfully used in conjunction with a “Skills Night” that involves Webelos dens. At a district level, emphasis on the campaign will be throughout the months of April and October.

Materials: Each Scout will receive a full color postcard in the mail in early August. This mailing explains the campaign to the boy and his parent. At a patrol meeting, boys will be asked to brainstorm the names of friends not involved in Scouting and will come up with ideas for inviting them to join Scouting. To help your Scouts, contact your District Scout Executive for a list of youth who have expressed an interest in Scouting but are not members. The Scoutmaster and parents will receive a letter explaining the process and how to fully utilize the resources.



The program should work as follows:

1. A couple days prior to a special troop meeting, Scoutmaster gets a list of recent separated members that may have an interest in rejoining Scouting, such as Webelos that did not crossover in the spring.
2. District distributes flyers to middle schools.
3. During the patrol meeting portion of the troop meeting have patrol members talk about the activities they like to do in Scouting (camping, hiking, canoeing, etc.).
4. Have Scouts brainstorm friends that also like to do those things, but are not currently in Scouting.
5. Share with Scouts the list of potential members from list of separated members and camp referrals.
6. Each Scout selects 2 people to invite to a special activity whether it's a troop Skills Night, special troop meeting, or campout/activity.
7. Remind Scouts that asking a friend to join Scouting is a requirement for 1st class rank.

Peer to Peer Patrol Meeting Outline

1. Unit leader explains why the troop is conducting a peer to peer recruiting campaign and challenges Scouts to “do their best” in helping to ensure boys have a chance to participate in the Scout Troop program.
2. Highlight the Scout Recruiter Patch that recognizes Scouts who successfully recruit a new Scout or former Scout .
3. Patrol members talk about the activities they like to do in Scouting (camping, hiking, canoeing, etc.).
4. Scouts brainstorm friends that also like to do those things, but are not currently in Scouting.
5. Share with Scouts the list of potential members from list of separated members, camp referrals, and results from the high adventure surveys.
6. Each Scout selects two people to invite to a special activity whether it's a troop Skills Night, special troop meeting, or campout/activity.
7. Remind Scouts that asking a friend to join Scouting is a requirement for 1st class rank.

How do boys invite their friends to a fun activity or campout?

- Personally invite friends to an upcoming activity
- Instant message friends and let them know all the fun things your troop is doing
- E-mail your friends and, if your troop has a web site, link it to the e-mail
- Every Scout is also eligible to receive the Council recruiter patch

Peer to Peer Sample Scoutmaster Letter to Parents

Dear Parent:

This fall we are asking your Scout to help make a difference in the lives of his friends by personally inviting them to join our troop. Our troop Skills Night and new parent orientation will be on (day), (Date) (time) at (location). We've got some exciting activities planned for our guests including: fire starting, knot tying and initiative games.

Studies have shown that children tend to gravitate towards participating in activities that their friends participate in. I believe that your child is more likely to stay in Scouting, and get the full benefits of a proven program, if their friends are in it with him! Scouting believes this is so important that they have made it a requirement to be a 1st class Scout.

What are those benefits again?

- Learning new things.
- Develop new skills.
- Develop a sense of belonging.
- Enjoy a "safe haven" for activities.
- Learn citizenship, character, and fitness (mental, moral, and physical).
- Develop leadership skills.
- Develop self-confidence as he earns badges.
- Spending "Quality Time" with family and leaders.
- And, yes, he will have a lot of fun too!

Please help your child participate in the Skills Night recruiting program by reminding him to choose the boys he would like to join the troop, invite them to the Skills Night and remind them of the meeting.

Another way you can help is to follow up with the parents of your child's friends and encourage them to come to the troop Skills Night. Your child will have more fun in Scouts if his friends join, and you just may make some new friends yourself!

Many thanks to you and your family for choosing Scouting for your child. The time you spend with them in Scouting is very important and will help them to grow into the best adult they can be!

I'm Looking forward to seeing you and your child at our troop Skills Night on (day), (month).

Sincerely,

Scoutmaster

Parent-to-Parent Scout Recruiting

- What:** A concerted effort to enlist the help of current Scouting parents to talk about the fun Scouting has to offer and the benefits of Scouting to the parents of their children's friends.
- Why:** Because as Will Rogers said, "The only problem with the Boy Scouts is there aren't enough of them."
Because our children face greater emotional and mental health risks than ever before. (The 6/1/04 Indianapolis Star reported America leads the world in emotional and mental disorders with 26% of participants in a diagnostic survey reporting emotional, behavioral or mental problems.)
Because the National Commission on Children at Risk, 33 distinguished medical doctors and academics have determined unequivocally that the single most important thing we can do to help our children grow into healthy productive citizens is provide an environment of "people who care for one another over time, and who model and pass on at least part of what it means to be a good person." That's Scouting!
- When:** Anytime – But especially in conjunction with your troop's spring or fall Skills Night and new parent orientation.
- Who:** Anyone who wants to make a difference.
- How:** There are lots of ways. Here are a few ideas.
1. Talk about the benefits of Scouting to everyone you meet – especially parents of youth from first grade through high school or parents of high school age girls. Tell them how they can become a Cub Scout, Scout, Venturer or Explorer.
 2. Make a special effort prior to your troop's School Night to contact parents of your child's friends and urge them to attend. Volunteer to go with them.
 3. Use your school's student and parent directory to contact parents and invite them to attend a Scout activity with you.
 4. Help spread the word about Scouting by putting a *Be A Scout* sign in your yard. Distribute *Be A Scout* flyers and joining information to your child's play group, child-care center, after school program, PTA meeting, Y-group, Sunday school class, sports team – anywhere groups of children gather. Put up *Be A Scout* posters in your church, office, and neighborhood store. Yard signs, posters and flyers are all available through your child's Scout leader.

The sample High Adventure survey below can be obtained from the council service center or from your District Executive.



High-Adventure Survey

Check the activities you would like to do.

- Camping
- Swimming
- Horseback riding
- Canoeing
- Fishing
- Rock climbing
- Rafting
- Backpacking
- Cycling
- Snowboarding
- Sailing
- Motorboating

Look like fun?

Many Scout troops do all of these things and more!

Are you a Scout? yes no
Would you like to be a Scout? yes no

NAME _____ GRADE _____ AGE _____
ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____
CITY _____ ZIP _____ SCHOOL _____

34241 2000 Boy Scouts of America



VARSITY



V E N T U R I N G • B S A

MEMBERSHIP INVENTORY

**(To be conducted sixty days prior to the charter renewal date
as well as during the month of December)**

PURPOSE

1. Provides a roll call in which each unit member is contacted to determine quality of program received, to follow up on absent and inactive members, and to see if everyone is registered.
2. Invites each member to continue the program for another year and thus increases tenure of members.

The membership inventory is a part of the unit's charter renewal and will assist the unit in building strength with a quality program. It should be conducted 60 days prior to the unit's charter review meeting. Membership inventory is also held again in December to be sure all members are registered by year end.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Select a unit adult to lead the inventory.
2. Invite your commissioner to assist.

3. Using the computer printout for charter renewal, the commissioner and unit adults conduct an inventory of youth and adults who are still active.
4. All inactive members are listed and assigned to various persons who will visit or contact them to attempt to reactivate them. Be sure to brief the visitors/callers on what to say when they make their calls.
5. Agree on a plan to recruit new youth and adults so the unit can reregister with no loss in membership. One of the standards for the national Quality Unit Award is to renew the unit's charter with an equal or greater number of youth over a year ago.
6. Now make every effort to recruit additional youth and adults.
7. Also be sure to register any youth who are participating but are not yet registered.