

Boy Scout Troop Recruitment and Retention

Cub Scouts traditionally represent the foundation of the Boy Scout Troop. More than 95% of the youth in troops were Cub Scouts. Promoting Boy Scouts starts when the youth is in Cub Scouts. Here's ways to recruit boys into your troop.

Work with your Brother Cub Scout Pack

- Get to know the Cub Scout Leaders
- How can you help them with their program?
- Have camp out weekends that Cubs and Webelos can participate in
- Provide trained Den Chiefs to be your troop's ambassador
- Be sure to have an Assistant Scoutmaster work with your Den Chief and Den Leader
- Have a Membership Chair to follow-up with all visiting Cubs and Webelos
- Provide Order of the Arrow members for their Arrow of Light ceremony
- Be sure the Scoutmaster and other troop leaders attend the Pack's Blue & Gold Banquet
- Ask your Cub leaders to become Merit Badge counselors – get them involved with Boy Scouts early

Troop Open House

- November is a good Troop Open House Month
- Invite your potential feeder Pack to a Troop meeting
- Have Boy Scout parents and leaders available to talk and bond to the Webelos parents and leaders.
- See www.scouting.org for the Year-Round Recruitment Plan

Webelos to Scout Transition

- Have Scoutmaster and Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) visits the local Webelos' den meetings
- Remember when your son was a first-year scout, short and anxious?
- Remember when you were concerned about your son fitting in with those tall, older boys?
- Form a new Scout Patrol if possible
- Recruit new adults as leaders or a specific task to assist the troop and scouts
- Ask your new parents to complete a Troop Parent Survey to discover their talents
- Have an experienced parent or committee member explain the advancement process and understand your troop's culture
- Have a troop guide/manual for the new Scout and families
- Be sure to have an Assistant Scoutmaster shepherd these new Scouts

Friends Enjoy Scouts with their Friends

- Ask your incoming Scouts to invite their friends
- Create a recruitment incentive for new scouts
- This will help meet that 1st Class rank requirement early

It's Easier to Keep a Scout than Recruit a New One

- Closely track the progress of your new Scouts - Not progressing – have your Advancement Chair conduct a friendly Board of Review – find out about their experience and expectations
- Talk with parents to see 'how it's going' from their perspective
- If a Scout is absent from a meeting – have their patrol leader call
- Scout absent for several weeks – have the SPL call or Scoutmaster call
- No call says the Troop is not interested
- Scouts in sports – remind them about those sports related merit badges

Order of the Arrow – More Scouting Involvement the Better

- Troop OA Representative is a position of responsibility – but must be active in chapter meetings and activities
- Be sure to hold elections before mid-April – your troop rep can handle or invites in district officer to conduct elections
- Encourage election of qualified Scouts to get them participating in service and learning in other areas of Scouting through OA
- Have an OA leader encourage troop members to participate in the monthly OA Roundtable and be active themselves supporting the OA Troop Rep
- Troop OA rep encourages brother members to meet their Brotherhood requirements
- Involve them in ceremonies for the Arrow of Light ceremony to wow Webelos

Put High Adventure in your Troop Program

- Check out Philmont in Cimarron, NM; Northern Tier in Ely, MN; Summit in Jean, WV; and Sea Base in Key West, FL. Don't forget the council High Adventure opportunities.
- Don't know how to get there – come to Roundtable or talk with your Unit Commissioner, District Executive or other leaders who have been there
- Don't have enough boys for a full crew, ask your District Executive to help find a troop with open complements, or partner with another troop for a full crew of youth and leaders

Publicize your Troop's Community Activities

- Utilize local community newspapers, local cable forums and websites to submit pictures and brief articles
- Publicize the success of your Eagle Scouts and other scout events

Publicize your Troop's Meeting Time

- Update your Troop's meeting time and contact info in the "My Unit Pin" section of MyScouting.org
- Put up a sign/bulletin board at your Troop's meeting place to advertise your troop's activities

Trained Leaders are Key to a Successful Program

- Get newly recruited adults to New Leader Essentials – March and October
- Get your leaders to University of Scouting – every 2nd Saturday in March
- Get your leaders to District Roundtable for monthly updates and practical training and ideas
- Get your experienced leaders to advanced training – Wood Badge!

Check out ***The Scouting Zone*** at <https://beascout.scouting.org/>

