

## Parents and Scout Leaders

The difference between the unit's leaders, unit committee members and a parent is that the leaders and committee members have already volunteered to help. They have completed the required application, background check and attended the required training to become one of your son's leaders. They volunteer their time and effort to spend quality time with their sons and his scout buddies. But they can't do it alone!

From experience, I can tell you at first it was a little shaky being a new leader. I wasn't sure if I could commit the time, or whether I could come up with enough ideas to keep the boys interested. Believe me, it turns out the boys are not the ones to worry about. They have fun with whatever is offered them or that they think it up themselves. Getting them to the meeting and events were and are one of the biggest challenges. Without reliable transportation you get no scouts at the meeting or event. BSA does not stand for Baby Sitters of America, so let's not let it! We do scout stuff!!! The changes we as leaders get to see in the way our scouts treat one another, the enthusiasm they show, and the respect they build for each other and the unit is quite a reward for our one hour plus a week investment. Truth is, before you know it you find yourself researching new topics for the next meeting, finding cool events for the boys and their families to take part in. And then, your son and his buddies (also known as his Patrol) are advancing and moving on to even more fun and challenging stuff and planning their own meetings and events.

Every parent should be involved with their Scout in the unit's program in some way. Their involvement includes several key responsibilities to help strengthen their Scout's experience:

1. Perform an occasional task to assist the unit's program.
2. Participate directly with their Scout and his fellow scouts (*Share your talents where you can!*)
3. Go to and observe Scout meetings (*Our parents and leaders have become good friends*)
4. Be part of the unit's program—both weekly meetings and outings
5. Support the program financially
6. Coach their Scout in advancement and the earning of recognitions
7. Influence their Scout's continued participation

### Duties of every Scout's parents:

**Step 1 – Parental and Scout Youth Protection education.** Parents and youth are required to review the BSA's Youth Protection materials, available at the front of every handbook, as a joining requirement. *How to Protect Your Children from Child Abuse: A Parent's Guide* for Boy Scouts.

**Step 2 – Parental policy notification.** Every application for youth membership advises parents about the basic principles of youth protection. Every parent completing a youth membership form acknowledges awareness of the BSA's Youth Protection policy.

**Step 3 – Empowerment of Scouts.** Scouts are required to complete Youth Protection training before entering the program and as a requirement for rank advancement. The BSA teaches the "three R's" of youth protection, which convey an important message in a clear manner easily understood by youth members:

- **Recognize** situations that place you at risk of being molested, how child molesters operate, and that anyone could be a molester.
- **Resist** unwanted and inappropriate attention. Resistance will stop most attempts at molestation, bullying, or other abuse by telling the aggressor to "**Stop!**" or "**Leave me alone!**"
- **Report** attempted or actual molestation to a parent or other trusted adult. By encouraging the youth to tell you what happened, further abuse can be prevented and other children can be protected. Let the Scout know he or she will not be blamed for what occurred.

## How else can parents help their Scout and friends?

We encourage all adults, including all parents, to take the BSA's Youth Protection training. They can also take an active role in the day-to-day operation of the unit. The following are committee members of a troop. Your help is always welcome:

Troop Chairperson

Troop Secretary

Troop Treasurer (Finance/Records)

Troop Outdoor/Activities Coordinator

Troop Advancement Chair

Troop Chaplain

Troop Training Coordinator

Troop Equipment Coordinator

Membership Coordinator

Life to Eagle Advisor

New Parent Unit Coordinator

Unit Religious Emblems Coordinator

Order of the Arrow Troop Advisor

## Other Positions/Jobs Parents can help with as needed:

If a parent can't commit to a full-time volunteer position, throughout the year we need short term help with several events and task. Including:

**Merit Badge Counselor** – Have talent or skill and willing to share that talent with one or more of the Scouts. Volunteer as a Merit Badge Counselor for the Troop only or Council-wide. Contact the Scoutmaster for more information. There are currently 135 badges to choose and help with.

**Fundraiser Coordinator** – We run fundraisers a couple of times throughout the year. We can use your skills if you are willing to share them with us! Learn the in's and out's of Popcorn Sales, Wreath sales, Candy sales, the troop Spaghetti Dinner or running a Car Wash. If you have other ideas bring them to the Troop Committee.

**Ceremony Reception/Banquet Coordinator** – Are you a Party Planner? Want to be! We could use your help coordinating the invitations, VIPS, food, drink, desserts, tables and chairs, cleanup, parking, and recruiting more volunteer help.

**Event Coordinator** – We could use your help coordinating the troop's participation in any number of events throughout the year. Scout-A-Rama, Scouting for Food, Adopt-a-Highway Road Clean Up, District First Aid Meet, Assisting the Cub Scout packs with the Cubmobile races, Boo Camp, Pinewood Derby races, etc. Do one or help with them all.

**Special Projects** – At least annually, we take troop T-Shirts and Hoodys orders. Coordinate the order forms, payment and distribution of the apparel to the boys, leaders and other parents.

**Volunteer Driver** – Can't go camping this time but have the time and room to drive. We appreciate whatever you can assist with.

**Event worker** – Just come and help for a few hours or the whole day. Your son will have a great role model and the Troop will greatly benefit from your help and we appreciate it.

**Volunteer to come camping with us** – We are always in need of parents, older siblings (18+), and grandparents to go camping with us. You may find you love it!

Of course, there is also the Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters positions that are essential to the troop. If interested, contact the Scoutmaster and/or Committee Chair. All of our meetings are open. The more often you attend and start helping out, the quicker we'll get to know you!