

Recruiting Scouts outside of Cub Scouts

I would imagine most scouts when asked what is their favorite part of scouting they would choose campouts over weekly troop meetings. With that assumption, it makes sense to invite a youth to a troop campout when trying to recruit new youth to your Troop!

Below are some suggestions to invite and recruit youth.

1. Pick a weekend campout that the troop has scheduled at least 6 weeks out. It might make more sense to plan this event after your new Webelos cross over. Interested scouts would be joining with other youth and still in time to use summer camp attendance as a reason to join.
2. If a campout will not work with your Troop, consider a day event. (Hiking, National Park, etc.)
3. Make the camp out something that would introduce new kids to scouting like a trip to Camp Mack or Camp Bashore that could include fishing, hiking and maybe some GaGa pit games.
4. Create some simple flyers / invitation cards to distribute
 - a. Cards/Flyers should have contact information, RSVP date, cost, and collect information needed to register them for the campout.
 - b. Create a contest with current troop members to invite friends from school, sports teams, church, other family members (siblings, cousins) etc. Each scout gets his name in a hat for each guest he brings with a drawing for a prize after the campout.
 - c. Consider handing out materials at churches, community boards, etc. in your area.
 - d. Set up an event on your PUBLIC Facebook page and boost it.
5. Ensure you have parental permission slip and BSA Medical form parts A & B if the guest youth is attending without a parent.
6. As in all scouting events make sure all the scouting safety and youth protection policies are in place and followed by any guests.
7. Follow up with the parents after a few days to see if their youth is interested in joining the troop.

Some basic Q&A:

Can you have a non-registered youth attend a campout with the troop? Yes, IF the primary reason for the youth attending is to recruit them into scouting. NOTE: the youth must provide the BSA Medical form parts A & B and a parental permission slip if the parent is not attending.

How many nights can the non-registered youth attend? Non-registered youth are limited to 2 overnights.

Will the Scout insurance policy cover the non-registered youth like a registered youth? Yes, as long as the trip is for recruiting purposes and you have the BSA Medical form parts A & B and a parental permission slip if the parent is not attending.

Does a parent have to attend the camp out? No, as long as two deep leadership is provided and the BSA Medical form Parts A & B and a parental permission slip are provided. NOTE: Strongly encourage a parent to attend. It gives you a chance to sell scouting to the parent and maybe recruit a new leader!

Can non-registered youth attend District or Council events? Yes, as long as you have two deep leadership, the BSA Medical form Parts A & B and a parental permission slip are provided. NOTE: Only registered youth can attend a BSA Summer or High Adventure Camp.

Does a visiting parent have to have Act 15 clearance and YPT completed? No, it is not required; however, the troop must provide two deep leadership and ensure all the YPT guidelines are followed by guests as well as the troop.