

“BRING A FRIEND”

To your District Camporee, Troop Open House and Blackhawk Patrol Recognition.

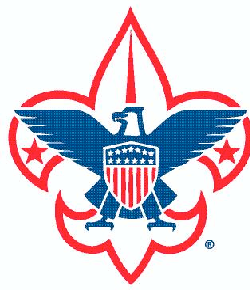
BLACKHAWK AREA COUNCIL
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

www.thescoutzone.org

National website for the Boy Scouting Program

www.blackhawkscouting.org

Blackhawk Area Council's website



July 18, 2006

Dear Scoutmaster and Senior Patrol Leader:

Through the efforts of each Troop in the Blackhawk Area Council, Boy Scout membership recruitment has done a great job in Webelos transition to Boy Scouting. While this is great news, we haven't been able reach out to boys who were not in Cub Scouting.

We all know that boy's recruit boy's to join Scouting. The Camporee , Troop Open House's and the new Blackhawk Patrol are exciting ways for your Scouts to invite a friend to join Scouting.

The District Camporee will be another opportunity for Scouts to Bring a Friend to an exciting event. Scouts from all over the Blackhawk Area Council will be showing off their scouting skills.

In the next few pages, you'll discover an exciting program for you and your Scouts. We hope that you will consider participating in the Bring a Friend program. Please contact your District Executive for more details and we look forward to seeing and your at the District Camporee.

Yours in Scouting,

Bob Menard

Bob Menard

Council VP for Membership

THE PLAN

The Boy Scout recruitment campaign is a plan whereby every boy who is Boy Scout age - particularly those boys in the 6th grade would be invited to join his local Boy Scout Troop.

If a Scout brings a friend to the District Camporee He will receive a special edition patch given only to recruiters. If a "Scouting Friend" decides to join Scouting he will receive a special Blackhawk Area Council Frisbee.

Flyers will be passed out to every boy in the 6th grade, and in-school presentations will be completed in every available middle school. The Patrol Leader's Council should set a troop goal to recruit enough boys to get all patrols up to full strength, and earn the Blackhawk Patrol Award. The Program is outlined later in this booklet.

** All "Scout Friends" are covered by the BSA, Liability Insurance

DRIVE CHAIRMAN TROOP POSITION DESCRIPTION

1. Give leadership to the 2007 Bring a Friend membership plan to your troop.
2. Call each Scoutmaster to get from them a commitment to the Bring a Friend membership plan.
3. Promote the program at Roundtable
4. Collect and turn in applications, make sure each Scout who recruited a new Scout is recognized and turn in the paperwork to the Council Service Center for processing.
5. Recognize your leaders and boys who have made their "Bring A Friend" program a success.
6. Share and Review the new National Recruitment DVD.

TROOP RECRUITING IDEAS

I. Recruiting full EIGHT BOY PATROLS:

Each patrol in the troop goes out to recruit new members so each patrol is at "Full Strength".

- A. Each patrol makes a list of boys in the neighborhood who are not Scouts.
- B. Get a list of last year's Webelos who did not transfer into Scouting Troop.
- C. Conduct a patrol meeting with recruiting new boys as the main item of discussion.
- D. Patrol members go out in groups of two to meet the new prospect.
- E. Show the new training video detailing to young scouts how to speak to their friends about joining.
- F. Troop Inducts new members.

II. Other ideas to help “Bring A Friend”

- A. Have flyers distributed to all boys in the 6th grade.
- B. Have an in-school presentation scheduled with the local elementary school. The Scoutmaster or older Scout should accompany the District Executive. The DVD sale video is shown and Boy Fact Survey cards are filled out.
- C. Telephone contact with all prospects should occur prior to Rally Week.
- D. Conduct Rally Week presentation to parents and boys.

III. Boy Scout Retention

- A. Make your current Scouts feel welcome and wanted.
- B. Follow-up immediately with boys who miss more than two meetings.
- C. Talk to parents about the values of Scouting, and what Scouting can do for their son.
- D. Show the parents the testimonial video.

Remember, the longer boys stay in Scouting, the better chance we have in instilling Scouting values in these youths. Don't be afraid to do an exit interview with boys who lose interest. A good evaluation will help leaders do a better job.

“BRING A FRIEND”

The Bring A Friend recruiting plan is a proven method for recruiting boys into Scouting. It is 100% successful - the boy either joins the troop, or your troop has at least had the opportunity to tell a non-troop family about your program. Either way, the troop is the winner. This plan should be a part of your troop fall recruiting plan.

Here are all the recruiting steps. DON'T SHORT CUT THEM. It is important that each potential new member be recruited using the same method. Boys joining your troop from a graduating Webelos Den should also go through the “One-On-One” program.

1. Identify and train one or more adults in the techniques of visiting with boys and parents about Scouting and your troop. This adult could be the Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster, a member of the troop committee or a parent of a Scout in your troop.
2. Identify a Scout in the troop who will accompany the adult on each home visitation. In many cases, some Scout in the troop will know the new boy and he is the one who should go along.
3. Boy Fact Survey:
 - A. Each Scout troop should attempt to secure telephone book information relative to 6th and 7th grade boys in their local school. Names, addresses and phone numbers may be given by schools upon request.

B. Unit Leaders and District Executives conduct an in-school presentation for all boys in grades 6th and 7th. The DVD codes video should be shown. Potential Scouts are asked to fill out boy fact survey cards.

C. Once the in-school presentation has been made, the District Executive sorts the cards for local Scout Troops, keeps a list of all prospects, and asks the Scout Troop to follow up with prospects given.

4. Make assignments for the recruiting visits. One adult (parent) and one Scout (his or her son) are assigned to each prospect.
5. The adult who represents the troop calls the parents and makes an appointment to visit with them and their son about the troop and its activities.
6. The adult (parent) troop representative and a Scout (his or her son) from the troop visit with the boy and his parents in their home and show the new parents the testimonial video. There are a number of items that should be covered:
 1. The Purpose of Scouting
 2. The Parents Role
 3. The Troop Specifics
 4. District Camporee
 5. Prospect Sign-up and
 6. Next Scout Meeting
7. The Scout application is forwarded to the Blackhawk Area Council Scout office, or turn in at the District Camporee.

TOOLS TO SUPPORT YOUR UNIT FALL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>COST</u>	
1. Posters	free	From Council Office
2. Applications (boy & adult)	free	From Council Office
3. Boys' Life Mini-Magazine	free	From Council Office
4. Be a Boy Scout Postcard (#6521)	\$.06	From Scout Shop
5. Action Book for New Scout (3904)	\$.75	From Scout Shop
6. Special Recruiter Patch	free	From Council Office
7. Recruiter Patch	free	From Council Office
8. Frisbee Flyer	free	From District Professional
9. The new Boy Scouting membership tools DVD contains five programs:		
1. A new high-energy sales video for Boy Scouting		
2. A training video showing young Scouts how to speak to their friends about joining		
3. A video regarding troop open house best methods		
4. A presentation on the importance of Webelos to Scout transition		
5. A parent testimonial video		

Exciting Web Site for all Boy Scouts and potential new Scouts to visit - www.thescoutzone.org

Group Award Requirements



Blackhawk Patrol Award Requirements

Blackhawk Patrol

If you really want evidence that the patrol you lead is a great patrol, then you'll want to "go the extra mile" and earn the Blackhawk Patrol Award. The award is special partly because it's named after a Native American Leader, Blackhawk. But the really special part is that any patrol that earns the award will be getting the most it can out of Scouting.

The award is an embroidered feather worn beneath your patrol medallion, and it spotlights your patrol as one of the best. It's a challenge the guys can really get behind.

The award is given to patrols that complete the following requirements:

1. **Spirit.** Have a patrol flag and rally around it. Put your patrol design on all your equipment. Use your patrol yell or cheer and patrol call. Keep patrol records up to date for 2 months.

2. **Patrol meetings.** Hold two patrol meetings each month for two months.
3. **Hikes, outdoor activities, and other events.** Take part in one of these within 2 months.
4. **Good Turns or service projects.** Do two patrol leaders' council approved Good Turns or service projects within two months.
5. **Advancement.** Help two patrol members advance one rank during 2 months.
6. **Uniform.** Wear the uniform correctly.
7. **Patrol leaders' council.** Represent the patrol during three patrol leaders' council meetings within 2 months.
8. **Recruit Patrol to full strength.** A patrol is at full strength when it has 8 (eight Scouts as members). If your patrol has 5 or 6 members, identify and recruit new Scouts to your troop and patrol bring your patrol up to 8 (eight) members. Once your patrol is up to full strength, talk to your Scoutmaster and Senior Patrol Leader about forming 2 patrols from your patrol. This will give an opportunity for you to be a patrol leader or other leadership positions. Recruit the new patrols up to eight members and earn the Blackhawk Patrol Award with your new patrol.

The Blackhawk Patrol Award is a patch shaped like a feather to be worn under your patrol emblem on your uniform. Patrol Leaders will receive a distinctive certificate for their accomplishment.

In 2007 the award and certificate are provided free of charge. Beginning in 2008 they will no longer be provided free of charge to the units. Sample below.

Blackhawk Area Council

Boy Scouts of America

Blackhawk Patrol Leader Award



PRESENTED TO:

by

Troop _____ date _____

Scoutmaster

Senior Patrol Leader

Troop Open House

Introduction

The Boy Scout troop open house allows a troop to swing open its doors and roll out the red carpet to welcome guests. It provides a forum to show off Scouting activities and the troop's accomplishments. It is an effective tool to reach youth who have never tried Scouting.

Hosting a troop open house is a five-step process that has been tried and proven in troops throughout the nation. Each of the following five steps is vital to the event's success:

1. Present a school rally to fifth- and sixth-graders.
2. Mail the parents of interested youth a personal invitation to the troop open house.
3. Follow the invitation with a telephone call to the parents.
4. Host the troop open house for youth and their parents.
5. Organize a troop activity to involve new Scouts right away.

Youth join Scouting for the fun and outdoor adventure. Parents want them to join for completely different reasons—character building and leadership training.

Following this plan for conducting a troop open house will help you address the wants and needs of both youth and their parents.

Use the Troop Open House Planning Sheet in this brochure to track your progress.

Troop Open House

Host the Troop Open House

1. The troop open house can be conducted as a districtwide event for a number of troops, or an individual troop can conduct one independently. The important idea to remember is that Scouting is showcased and each guest is made to feel welcome.
2. Involve all troop members in the open house from the planning stage. Remind each Scout of the importance of building their troop; be receptive to their ideas.

Begin making plans for the open house as early as possible, following these suggestions:

- Prior to the night of the open house, involve the troop in sprucing up the meeting place. Treat the task as a "spring cleaning" since the troop will be welcoming guests.
 - Prepare a display of troop activities, photos, and awards that the troop has earned.
 - Assign greeters to be at the door to welcome guests as they arrive. Be sure to have adequate seating.
 - Have a printed agenda and a copy of the troop's calendar at each seat.
 - Make assignments for each part on the agenda well in advance. The senior patrol leader should be the emcee of the meeting.
 - Prepare refreshments for your guests if you desire.
3. The troop open house should follow an agenda, such as the one in this brochure, to help guests gather a broad range of Scouting information. The youth is introduced to basic Scouting skills while an adult troop leader informs the parents about Scouting's values and its positive effect on youth.
 4. During the open house, Scouts and Scouters should do everything possible to make their guests feel comfortable and to answer each question as it arises. Be sure parents know they may ask questions at any time. The guests should be allowed to participate whenever possible.
 5. At some point, the Scoutmaster should explain that both the youth and his parents may join the troop. Have applications available for both Scouts and adults.

Sample Troop Open House Agenda

Assign To:

1 Preopening

Conduct a simple action game for early arrivals.

2 Opening Hold the flag ceremony.

Welcome the guests.

3 Activity Time

A. Skill time for youth

Hot spark, Knot relay, Tent pitching, Make donuts, Frisbee Golf, Water balloon bombing, baseball, soccer, basketball, or other exciting games and activities boys like to do.

B. Parent orientation

Explain the ideals and values of Scouting.

Introduce the troop leadership.

Introduce the troop organization

Distribute the troop calendar.

Explain the summer camp opportunity.

Thoroughly explain the troop membership costs.

4 Joining Process

Youth and parents complete applications to join Scouting.

Announce information about the next troop meeting.

5 Closing Scoutmaster's Minute

Closing ceremony

6 Refreshments (optional)