



JOINING A BOY SCOUT TROOP

What every Parent should know about Boy Scouting
The Webelos to Boy Scout Transition

Questions and Answers — When Visiting A Troop



During your troop visit, there are things to ask and observe. You want a troop with which you and your son will feel comfortable. Do not be afraid to ask about the troop. They will be proud to tell you about themselves.

How many registered Scouts are in the troop? How many registered leaders? While troops vary in size, there should be ample leadership appropriate to the number of boys in the troop. Do the boys tend to stick with the program year? Has the troop obtain Quality Unit Award Status?

- **Don't discount smaller troops.** Smaller numbers of Scouts in a unit could be from not enough Webelos crossing over in previous years. Several Webelos joining could do much to revitalize a good troop with years of traditions.

Do I need to join the troop my Webelos Leader joins?
No. All members of a den need not join the same troop, nor is there a "designated" troop that you must join; although some packs have close affiliation with a brother troop and/or affiliation based on religion. Most troops welcome any new Scout that would like to join them. Remember: The choice of a troop is a personal decision.

How do I arrange a visit to a Troop? Most Troops will conduct a "Troop Open House" for Webelos to visit. These are fun and informative meetings for incoming Webelos. Your Cub Pack Leaders and Webelos Den Leader should have a date, check with them before calling a unit. If not, call a troop and ask the best night to visit.



Does the troop have younger and older boy programs?
You want a program that your son can grow with. A good troop has younger and older boy opportunities.

What is their activity program like? How often do they camp? Do they attend Summer Camp? Ask for a copy of their yearly program. Do they offer 9 to 12 months of campouts? Do they camp in the winter? Do they participate in District/Council activities? Summer Camp offers a tremendous opportunity to experience the fun and excitement of camping, while affording them the opportunity to achieve rank advancement and merit badges.

Be sure to ask about troop dues, joining fees and uniform requirements.

My son is active in sports and other activities. Can he fit Scouting in his busy Schedule? Most of our Scouts are

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What is Boy Scouting

There are two ways of looking at Boy Scouting. From the boy's viewpoint, it's a game. It takes him outdoors for camping and hiking, and gives him a chance to learn new skills and be recognized for them. Boy Scouting also provides plenty of fun with old and new friends.

From the parents' viewpoint, Boy Scouting is all that and more. It aims to straighten the boy's character through precept and example, to make an aware, participating citizen, and to enhance his physical mental, and moral development.

That sounds like a tall order, and it is. But Boy Scouting has proven over time, that it can fill that order by exposing your son to new, wholesome experiences as he works and plays with his fellow Scouts in our Troop.

A church, school, or community organization known as the charter organization sponsors a Troop. The charter organization arranges for the use of the meeting rooms and approves the adult leaders who administer the troop's affairs. Troop meetings are usually held once a week.

The leaders are the Scoutmaster, his assistants, and the troop committee. All are unpaid volunteers; most are parents of boys in the troop.



Troop meetings, campouts and activities are planned and conducted by boy leaders under the coaching and guidance of the Scoutmaster. This is part of the plan to help boys grow to make decisions and take an active part in making the troop program successful.

Personal Growth

As Boy Scouts plan their activities and progress toward their goals, they experience personal growth. The Good Turn concept is a major part of the personal growth method of Boy Scouting. Boys grow as they participate in community service projects and do good Turns for others.

The Patrol Method

In Boy Scouting your son is organized into "Patrols". Unlike "Dens" in Cub Scouting where activities are planned and run by parents, Patrols elect a fellow Scout as their Patrol Leader and they work as a team to plan and organize their part in the troop program. Adult leaders are on the sideline coaching and supervising. This is the patrol method.

The Patrol method gives Boy Scouts an experience in group living and participating citizenship. It places responsibility on young shoulders and teaches boys how to accept it. The patrol method allows Scouts to interact in small groups where members can easily relate to each other. These small groups determine troop activities through elected representatives.

The Outdoor Program

Boy Scout is designed to take place outdoors. It is in the outdoor setting that Scouts share responsibilities and learn to live with one another. In the outdoors the skills and activi-

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active in sports and other activities and do Scouting at the same time. Try it, you will see how well it all works.

How will my son interact with older boys in the troop?

Many troops have a new boy patrol and an older Scout that serves as a Troop Guide. The first year as a Boy Scout is a critical time with new places, new people, new rules, and new activities. The Troop Guide is a friend to the new Scouts and makes first year fun and successful.

What camping gear will he need? Most troops have tents, cooking gear, and camping gear. Your Scoutmaster will review a list of personal gear needed to participate in the outdoor program.

My son has a friend that was not in Cub Scouts, can he join the Boy Scouts? YES! Prior Cub Scout experience or earning the Arrow of Light Award is not required to join the Boy Scouts. Most Troops actively recruitment 5th. Grade boys in the spring time when 5th. Grade Webelos are crossing over. Have your

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ties practiced at troop meetings come alive with purpose. Being close to nature helps young men gain an appreciation for the beauty of the world around us. The outdoors is the laboratory in which Boy Scouts learn ecology and practice conservation of nature's resources.



Parents Support

Your son success in Scouting depends in part on the success of the troop. If the troop is strong, active and vibrant, he will have a better chance to make the most of his experience as a Scout. You can help keep the troop strong! Your active participation and offer of help when the troop has a need will show your son that you support him and want to have the best experience possible in Scouting.

Listing of Scout Troops in the Powahay District

Unit	Town	Charter	Meeting Night	First Name	Last Name	Phone	Email
Troop 0035	Darien	Andrew Shaw Memorial Trust	Monday	Michael	Towell	(203) 524-2576	towells@gmail.com
Troop 0053	Darien	Andrew Shaw Memorial Trust	Tuesday	Grant	Evans	(203) 253 - 8318	gevanst53@gmail.com
Troop 0031	New Canaan	United Church Methodist	Monday	George	Harvey	(203) 972 - 7372	harveygp@me.com
Troop 0070	New Canaan	St. Marks Episcopal	Thursday	Chris	Winalski	(857) 919-1919	chris.newcanaan70@gmail.com
Troop 0002	Norwalk	United Church of Rowayton	Thursday	Thomas	Robinson	(203) 984 - 1046	trobin5456@aol.com
Troop 0014	Norwalk	St. George Greek Church	Thursday	Michael	Dorrico	(203) 979 - 7556	mdorrico11@aol.com
Troop 0019	Norwalk	Cornerstone Community Church	Thursday	Thane	Grael	(203) 952 - 1653	thaneg@optonline.net
Troop 0222	Norwalk	St. Thomas RC Church	Thursday	Gwen	Lupinek	(203) 847 - 1794	glupinek@gmail.com
Troop 0005	Stamford	St. Johns Episcopal Church	Thursday	Nathan	Newhall	(203) 425 - 9607	newhall123@aol.com
Troop 0009	Stamford	First United Methodist Church	Thursday	Roger	Williams	(203) 358 - 8634	rvw@optonline.net
Troop 0011	Stamford	Holy Spirit Church	Monday	John	Clapps	(203) 401-8928	me@johnclapps.com
Troop 0015	Stamford	Jewish VFW Post 142	Wednesday	Barry	Morris	(860) 633 - 1452	barry.morris@mail.com
Troop 0020	Wilton	Wilton Congregational Church	Monday	Fred	Harley	(203) 762 - 2573	fharley@optonline.net
Troop 0125	Wilton	St. Matthew Episcopal Church	Tuesday	Sean	Heiligenthaler	(203) 762 - 6051	sheiligenthaler@att.net