

Clinton Valley Council
Boy Scouts of America



2009 Boy Scout
Recruiting Guide

www.cvc-bsa.org

Table of Contents

Overview	3
Recruiting Timeline	4
“My Best Friend is a Scout”	5
Parent-to-Parent Recruiting.....	9
Pizza Parties.....	10
<i>ScoutParents</i>	11
Script for School Night for Boy Scouting.....	12
Troop Open House Agenda	14
Checklist for Boys First Campout.....	19
First Troop Meeting Program Plan.....	20
Boy Talks/School Assemblies	21
Boy Fact Surveys.....	23
Research Findings.....	25

Note: Information in this booklet can be copied as needed.

Overview

The purpose of this recruiting effort is to invite boys and their parents to join Scouting. This campaign targets non-Scouts or former Scouts that are no longer in the program.

Elementary Schools

Many 5th grade students are already 11 years old. Also, some of our council's elementary schools include 6th grade classrooms. A Boy Scout flyer should be handed to these boys inviting them back to the school the same night as the Cub Scout pack's school night. A table should be set up for 11 year-old boys. After the opening ceremony and group sparkler, this table will be dismissed to the library or other pre-arranged room for a separate meeting. The Boy Scout troop should provide the opening ceremony and have at least one adult present as part of the School Night team to run the Boy Scout breakout portion of the meeting.

Middle Schools/Troop Open Houses

These recruiting activities should be centered on events or activities the boys want to participate in. This should include a Scout skills round-robin (first aid, fire building, tent set up, initiative games, etc). "Open House Kit" ideas are in this booklet that your troop can put together and use for this program, troop campout/outdoor activity, skating party, bowling party, pizza party, etc. Personal invitations should be sent out 2 weeks prior to the event with a follow up phone call/invitation from a Scout 1 week prior to the event. Each Scout that recruits a new boy will receive a recruiter patch.

Peer-to-Peer Recruiting

Our current membership is our best recruiting tool. Scouts should be encouraged to invite a friend to troop meetings and activities (campouts, field trips, etc.) throughout the year. An organized Peer-to-Peer recruiting campaign should happen at least annually, inviting potential Scouts to a special recruiting event/activity or an open house. This program will help youth fulfill the first class rank requirement of inviting another youth do join Scouting. Each Scout will receive a recruiter patch for recruiting their friends.

Parent-to-Parent Recruiting

Parents of current Scouts should be encouraged to talk about the positive benefits of Scouting to their son's social group (neighbors, friends, Sunday school class, relatives, etc.). School directories could be used to organize a call night to talk to other parents about the Boy Scout program.

Where to get names of those interested in Scouting

There are several ways to get a list of potential Boy Scouts to invite to a Troop Open House or special recruiting event/activity. High Adventure surveys conducted at local 6th, 7th, and 8th grades provides a good list of boys that expressed an interested in Scouting or those that expressed an interest in the things Scouts do. Your District Executive can provide you a list of "separated members;" those Webelos that did not cross over in to Scouting or those Scouts that dropped out of the program. Many will rejoin if asked. Conducting a "Peer-to-Peer" recruiting campaign within your unit where current Scouts list the names of their friends they are going to invite to an upcoming meeting is also a great way to recruit.

Recruiting Timeline

April/May

- Select a date to have a special recruiting event/activity during these months.
- During one of your weekly troop meetings, talk to the Scouts about inviting their friends to join Scouting with them. Talk about recruitment plans this spring. Have boys brainstorm names of people to invite.

July/August

- Develop your 2009-2010 annual program plan and budget.

August

- Attend your district's school night kickoff. Arrange a time to conduct High Adventure surveys in local middle schools, get a list of Webelos that did not move into Boy Scouting last spring, and a list of Boy Scouts that did not re-charter with their troop last spring from your district executive.

September/October

- Attend your local pack's School Night for Scouting to recruit any 11 year-old boys that attend.
- Hold a 2nd open house inviting new youth to join.

Recruiting event minus 1 week – During the patrol meeting part of the troop meeting, review the names your troop brainstormed during a troop meeting, list of separated Webelos, list of separated Boy Scouts, and names from High Adventure surveys. Have each youth commit to personally invite one or two boys on the list. (See “My Best Friend is a Scout” information on page 5). Review and plan the open house program. Make assignments to youth and adults.

Recruiting event minus 1 or 2 days – Conduct boy talk at local 6th, 7th, and 8th grades that you wish to recruit. Personally follow up within 24 hours with each interested boy to invite to recruiting event. Create an “Open House Kit” to bring to the open house.

Day of event – Make fun, exciting, and hands on.

Recruiting event – within 1 week – Recruited boys should attend 1st troop meeting to prepare for their 1st campout, get an introduction to some of the requirements for Tenderfoot, and introduce the patrol method.

Recruiting event – within 2 weeks – Recruited boy's first outing with the Troop.

“My Best Friend is a Scout”

Objective: The “Peer-to-Peer” recruiting campaign is designed to ensure more boys are given the opportunity to join the Boy Scout program. This campaign supports your troop’s efforts to involve more youth through open house promotion, inviting a friend to an outing, or having a joining pizza party.

Timeline: Units may conduct a “Peer-to-Peer” recruiting campaign throughout the year. At a district level, emphasis on the campaign will be throughout the months of April/May and September/October

Materials: At a patrol meeting, boys will be asked to brainstorm the names of friends not involved in Scouting and will come up with new ways of inviting them to join Scouting. The Scoutmaster sends a letter to parents explaining the process and how to fully utilize the resources.

Invitation Form: Available at www.cvc-bsa.org + you will be given three for each boy in your unit at your district’s program kickoff in May.

Trustworthy Loyal Helpful Friendly Courteous Kind



Scouting
Words to Live by:

Obedient Cheerful Thrifty Brave Clean Reverent

Please join Scouting with me.

Date: _____

Time: _____

Location: _____

Contact Info: _____

www.JoinScoutingMichigan.org

How do boys invite their friends to a fun activity or campout?

- Personally invite friends to an upcoming activity.
- Instant message friends and let them know all the fun things your troop is doing.
- E-mail your friends and, if your troop has a web site, link it to the e-mail.

“My Best Friend is a Scout”

Letter to Unit Leaders

Dear Leader:

Thank you for participating in this new Boy Scout recruiting campaign! We have designed some new materials and approaches to help your troop recruit boys into the great program your troop offers, a program that will positively affect the lives of the boys and their families!

The basic thought of this program is having your current Boy Scouts help recruit their friends into the troop. Studies show that current Boy Scouts will stay involved if they are participating with their friends. We have always had a “boys-recruit-boys” philosophy, but we have never given them the tools, and taught them how to use them. This year we are counting on you to help them become salesman for Scouting! In addition, with the 1st class requirement to ask a friend to join Scouting, we are giving them the tools to be successful.

The “My Best Friend is a Scout” campaign is designed to give your Boy Scouts some recruitment tools, and the desire, to recruit their two best friends to join Scouting with them. Your current Boy Scouts will have more fun if their friends join them, and they will stay in Scouting longer. There will be less negative peer pressure when their friends are also Scouts.

The program should work as follows:

1. A couple days prior to a special troop meeting, Scoutmaster obtains a list of recently separated members that may have an interest in rejoining Scouting; such as Webelos that did not crossover in the spring.
2. On the day of a special troop/patrol meeting, High Adventure surveys are conducted at a local middle school to determine who may be interested in joining Scouting.
3. During the patrol meeting portion of the troop meeting, have patrol members talk about the activities they like to do in Boy Scouting (camping, hiking, canoeing, etc.).
4. Have Scouts brainstorm names of friends that also like to do those things, but are not currently in Scouting.
5. Share with Scouts the list of potential members from list of separated members and results from the High Adventure surveys.
6. Each Scout selects 2 people to invite to a special activity whether it’s a troop open house, pizza party, special troop meeting, or campout/activity.
7. Have Scouts fill out invitations to give their friends the next day, or encourage them to email/text message/instant message their friends, inviting them to join.
8. Remind Scouts that asking a friend to join Scouting is a requirement for 1st class rank.

Sincerely,

Dave Every

Dave Every
Council Vice President of Membership

“My Best Friend is a Scout”

Patrol Meeting Outline

1. Patrol members talk about the activities they like to do in Boy Scouting (camping, hiking, canoeing, etc.).
2. Scouts brainstorm names of friends that also like to do those things, but are not currently in Scouting.
3. Share with Scouts the list of potential members from list of separated members and results from the High Adventure surveys.
4. Each Scout selects 2 people to invite to a special activity whether it's a troop open house, pizza party, special troop meeting, or campout/activity.
5. Remind Scouts that asking a friend to join Scouting is a requirement for 1st class rank.

“My Best Friend is a Scout”

Sample Scoutmaster’s Letter to Parents

Dear Parent:

This fall we are asking your Boy Scout to help make a difference in the lives of his friends by personally inviting them to join him in Boy Scouts. Studies have shown that boys tend to gravitate towards participating in activities that their friends participate in. I believe that your son is more likely to stay in Scouting, and get the full benefits of a proven program, if his friends are also in Scouting! Scouting believes this is so important that they have made it a requirement to be a 1st class Scout.

What are those benefits?

- Learning new things.
- Developing new skills.
- Developing a sense of belonging.
- Enjoying a “safe haven” for activities.
- Learning citizenship, character, and fitness (mental, moral, and physical).
- Developing leadership skills.
- Developing self-confidence as he earns badges.
- Spending “Quality Time” with family and leaders.
- And, yes, he will have a lot of fun too!

Please help your son participate in the “My Best Friend is a Scout” program by reminding him to do a couple of things: First, make sure he attends the meeting next week so that he can learn how to use the recruitment materials. Second, the day after the next troop meeting, remind him to invite his friends to join Scouting by giving them a special invitation or by emailing/text messaging/instant messaging his friends.

Another way you can help is by following up with the parents of your son’s friends and encourage them to come to the meeting. Your son will have more fun in Scouts if his friends join, and you just may make some new friends yourself!

Thank you and your family for choosing Scouting for your son. The time you spend with him in Scouting is very important and will help him to grow into the best adult he can be!

I’m looking forward to seeing you and your son at our next troop meeting.

Sincerely,

Scoutmaster

Parent-to-Parent Recruiting

What: A concerted effort to enlist the help of current Scouting parents to talk about the fun Scouting has to offer and the benefits of Scouting to the parents of their children's friends.

Why: Because as Will Rogers said; "The only problem with the Boy Scouts is there aren't enough of them."

Because our children face greater emotional and mental health risks than ever before. (The 6/1/04 Indianapolis Star reported America leads the world in emotional and mental disorders with 26% of participants in a diagnostic survey reporting emotional, behavioral or mental problems.)

Because the National Commission on Children at Risk, 33 distinguished medical doctors and academics, has determined unequivocally that the single most important thing we can do to help our children grow into healthy productive citizens is provide an environment of "people who care for one another over time, and who model and pass on at least part of what it means to be a good person." [That's Scouting!](#)

(For more information: www.instituteforamerica-values.org)

When: Anytime

Who: Anyone who wants to make a difference.

How: There are lots of ways. Here are a few ideas.

1. Talk about the benefits of Scouting to everyone you meet – especially parents of boys from first grade through high school or parents of high school age girls. Tell them how they can become a Cub Scout, Boy Scout, Venturer, or Explorer. (All they have to do is call (248) 338-0035 – we'll take it from there.)
2. Make a special effort prior to your group's School Night for Scouting or Open House to contact parents of your child's friends and urge them to attend. Volunteer to go with them.
3. Use your school's student and parent directory to contact parents and invite them to attend a Scout activity with you.

Pizza Parties

1. Prior to the pizza party have a special meeting with your Scouts. During this meeting your Scouts should:
 - List the top 5-10 things they enjoy about Scouting (Camping, backpacking, canoeing, etc).
 - Discuss who they would like to invite to join the troop. This could come from a number of sources: friends, list of former Scouts that have dropped out of the program, High Adventure surveys completed at a local middle/intermediate school.
 - Commit to inviting at least two prospective members (by name) by filling out a “My Best Friend is a Scout” invitation to give to the prospective member they will be inviting them to join Scouting. They can also send an email/text message or an instant message inviting the friend.
2. Offer a pizza party, paid for by the Troop, for Scouts and their recruited friends. At this meeting; give a 10-minute presentation about the troop and the program, share your troop calendar, and invite youth to come to next meeting or campout. They will have fun, enjoy pizza and each other’s company. You could also show a summer camp promotion video to show what they will be doing at camp.



www.ScoutParents.org

ScoutParents is a new organization within the Boy Scouts of America designed to promote Scouting to the parents of new and existing Scouts. *ScoutParents* tells parents why they should not only get/keep their son in Scouting, but why they should get involved in Scouting as “Scout Parents.” All items listed below can be printed through www.cvc-bsa.org



Boy Scout Volunteer Indicator

This brief questionnaire helps evaluate a parent’s skill level and interest in the many volunteer opportunities available in Scouting.



ProScouting Brochure

ProScouting brochures educate and inspire uninformed and former Scouting families (youth/parents/mentors) about the values, benefits, experiences and rewards they receive from participating with enthusiastic commitment in the GREAT Family FUN of Scouting!



ScoutParents.org/Scouting.org Brochure

This brochure introduces parents to *ScoutParents.org*, a BSA-approved site designed to educate parents about Scouting and to increase recruitment and retention. It also has links to other helpful official Scouting sites.

Script for School Night for Boy Scouting

Hold in conjunction with School Night for Cub Scouting

- I. **Pre-Opening – 30 minutes before the opening.....School Night Coordinator**
- A. Have the Troop set up displays (picture boards, tents/canoes, awards, pioneering projects, etc. outside, in the hallway, and/or in the breakout room for the 11 year- old boys). Have the Pack set up displays (picture boards, pinewood derby track, crafts, etc.) Pack displays should be set up in the cafeteria or main meeting room for the school night. Put signs on entrance doors with directions to the meeting room.
 - B. Be prepared with pre-opening activities to keep boys and parents involved. A meeting can be disrupted easily by uncontrolled running, shouting and horseplay.
Use the following suggestions to keep the group under control:
 - 1. Have parents and boys stay seated together at their grade appropriate table.
 - 2. Sing songs.
 - 3. Play games.
 - 4. Perform skits.
 - 5. Have a show of Boy Scout skills (have boys climb on a monkey bridge, show pioneering skills, etc.)
 - C. Have table tents and den/patrol flags to inform people where to sit (by grade). Make sure to have plenty of pens at each table. Direct every boy over 11 years of age to the “Boy Scout” table.
 - D. Utilize current adult leadership to keep boys and parents in assigned room and out of the halls and other areas.
 - E. Have parents fill out the attendance roster as they arrive (this is different than the den roster they fill out later).
 - F. Distribute *Parent Orientation Guides*; Parent Talent Surveys, *Boys’ Life* Mini Magazine, and any other pack information as people sign in (do **NOT** hand out applications yet). For boys over 11 years of age, give them the Boy Scout *Parent Orientation Guide*, *Boys’ Life* Mini Magazine, and other troop information as people sign in (do **NOT** hand out application yet).
 - G. Have parents fill out den/patrol roster sheet after they are seated at the correct table. This will be used by the Den Leader/Scoutmaster to show who is in their den/troop and to make sure they are contacted about the first den/troop meeting.
 - H. Be sure to start on time.

**II. OpeningSchool Night
Coordinator**

Good evening and welcome everyone. I am _____, and I have been a Scout leader for _____. I am looking forward to spending some time with you this evening and sharing with you how you can get involved with your son in a great family program.

Our goal this evening is to accomplish the three things outlined on the first page of the Parent's Guide:

- **Inform you about the Cub Scouting or Boy Scouting program.**
- **Sign up boys for Cub Scouting/Boy Scouting - now how many boys here want to be a Cub Scout/Boy Scout? Show me your hands.**
- **Organize our dens/patrols.**

I would like to start off our evening with an opening ceremony by Scouts of Pack/Troop _____.

(Scouts conduct a brief opening ceremony and/or posting of colors, Pledge of Allegiance, etc.)

(After the Pledge of Allegiance, 11 year-olds are dismissed to another room for their portion of the meeting. Scoutmaster/Assistant Scoutmaster runs the 11 year-old breakout. The school Night team continues on with the Cub Scout School Night.

Boy Scout Breakout

Have the Senior Patrol Leader show contents of his backpack and explain why each item is needed for camping, and how to pack. Focus on items that the boy most likely already has so he/his parents don't have to go out and purchase new camping materials immediately. Hand out the "*Your First Campout*" materials list and tell time/date/location of the first campout. Have the new boys bring these materials to the first troop meeting to make sure they are properly prepared. Explain that the Troop meets weekly (time/date/location) to review/learn skills needed on campouts and to plan outings.

You could also use the "Open House Kits" to put on a round-robin skills instruction for the youth.

While the Senior Patrol Leader is doing this with the Scouts, the Scoutmaster can talk to the parents about the Aims and Methods of Scouting, how parents should be involved, and share the annual program plan including meeting dates and campouts. Give list of materials needed for the first campout.

Troop Open House Agenda

1. Pre-Opening

- Conduct a simple action game for early arrivals.

2. Opening

- Flag Ceremony
 - Welcome the guests
-

3. Activity Time

A. Skill Time for Youth:

- Hot Spark
- Knot Relay
- Map and Compass
- Initiative Games

B. Parent Orientation

- Explain the ideals and values of Scouting.
- Introduce the troop leadership and its organization.
- Distribute the troop calendar.
- Explain the summer camp opportunity.
- Thoroughly explain the costs of troop membership.

4. Joining Process

- Youth and parents complete applications to join Scouting.
- Announce information about the next troop meeting.

5. Closing

- Scoutmaster's Minute Scoutmaster
 - Closing Ceremony
-

6. Refreshments (Optional)

Open House Kit

Create your own open house kit with the items below:

Contents:

- 2 Hot Spark kits
- 4 Cotton balls
- 2 Aluminum pie pans
- 5 6' lengths of rope for tying knots
- 5 "*Knots and How to Tie Them*" pamphlet (D33170A)
- 1 Topographic map
- 1 Compass
- 1 Instruction sheet for initiative games
- 1 Set of 4 posters for parents meeting
- 8 Copies of "*Your First Outdoor Campout*" handout

Fire Starting – Have an adult or older Scout demonstrate how to properly use a hot spark. Sit a cotton ball in the middle of an aluminum pie pan and have youth try to ignite it. **Have a way to quickly extinguish the fire nearby!** It's best to use something you can simply press down on cotton ball to smother flame, such as an empty can. It's also wise to have water nearby.

Knot Tying – Give each youth a "*Knots and How to Tie Them*" pamphlet and a length of rope. Demonstrate and let the youth practice tying the following knots: square knot, bowline, taut-line hitch, and two half hitches. Discuss how and why each knot is used.

Orienteering – Orient the map. Locate one of each of the following: river, ridge, valley, county road, gentle slope, cliff, steep slope, and lake.

Initiative Games – These are team games that are fun, but also teach teamwork.

Parent's meeting – While the youth are participating in the round-robin skills instruction, Scoutmaster or Committee Chairman should talk to the parents about the Aims and Methods of Scouting, how parents should be involved, and share the annual program plan, including meeting dates and campouts. Hand out a list of materials needed for first campout.

Initiative Games

Helium Stick

This is a deceptively simple but powerful exercise for learning how to work together and communicate in small to medium sized groups.

- Line up players in two rows, facing each other.
- Introduce the Helium Stick - a long, thin, light rod. (Dome tent poles work great!)
- Ask participants to point their index fingers and hold their arms out. Lay the Helium Stick down on their fingers. Get the group to adjust their finger heights until the Helium Stick is horizontal and everyone's index fingers are touching the stick.
- Explain that the challenge is to lower the Helium Stick to the ground. The catch: Each person's fingers must be in contact with the Helium Stick at all times. Pinching or grabbing the pole in not allowed - it must rest on top of fingers.
- Reiterate to the group that if anyone's finger is caught not touching the Helium Stick, the task will be restarted. Let the task begin....
- Warning: Particularly in the early stages, the Helium Stick has a habit of mysteriously float up rather than coming down, causing much laughter. A bit of clever humor can help; act surprised and ask what are they doing raising the Helium Stick instead of lowering it! For added drama, jump up and pull it down! Participants may be confused initially about the paradoxical behavior of the Helium Stick. The secret (keep it to yourself) is that the collective upwards pressure tends to be greater than the weight of the stick. Often the more a group tries, the more it floats upward.
- After 5 to 10 minutes of trying, some groups or individuals (most often larger size groups) may be inclined to give up, believing it not to be possible or that it is too hard. The facilitator can offer direct suggestions or suggest the group stops the task, discusses their strategy, and then tries again.
- Less often, a group may appear to be succeeding too fast. In response, be particularly vigilant about fingers not touching the pole. Also, make sure participants lower the pole all the way onto the ground. You can add further difficulty by adding a large washer to each end of the stick and explain that the washers should not fall off during the exercise, otherwise there will be a restart.
- Eventually the group needs to calm down, concentrate, and very slowly, patiently lower the Helium Stick. It's easier said than done.



Processing Thoughts on the Results:

- What was the initial reaction of the group?
- How well did the group cope with this challenge?
- What skills did it take to be successful as a group?
- What creative solutions were suggested and how were they received?
- What would an outside observer have seen as the strengths and weaknesses of the group?
- What did each group member learn about him/her self as an individual?
- What other situations (e.g., at school, home or work) are like the Helium Stick?

Mine Field

A popular, engaging game involving communication and trust. It works for groups of various types and sizes. It is moderately complex, but very flexible.

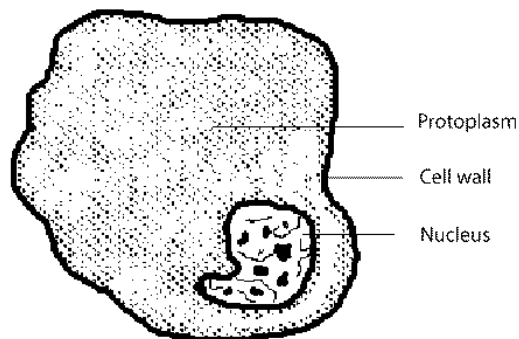
- The goal is to traverse, with eyes closed or blindfolded, a designated area full of obstacles without touching any obstacle or any person.
- Select a "playing field". Try to go outside, if possible, but can be done inside, even in rooms with fixed furniture (which can become objects to be avoided).
- Distribute "mines" e.g., balls or other objects such as bowling pins, cones, foam noodles, books, backpacks, etc. to the "field."
- Establish a concerned and caring tone for this activity. Trust exercises require a serious atmosphere to help develop a genuine sense of trust and safety.
- Participants can begin by trying to cross the field by themselves. In a second round, participants can then ask someone else to help them traverse the field by "talking" them through the field.
- Participants operate in pairs. Consider how the pairs are formed – it's a chance to work on relationships. One person is blind-folded (or keeps eyes closed) and (optional) cannot talk. The other person can see and talk, but cannot enter the field or touch the person.
- The challenge is for each blind-folded person to walk from one side of the field to the other, avoiding the mines, by listening to the verbal instructions of their partner.
- Be wary of blindfolded people bumping into each other. The instructor(s) can float around the playing area to help prevent collisions.
- Decide on the penalty for hitting a mine. It could be a restart (serious consequence) or time penalty or simply a count of hits, but without penalty.
- Allow participants a short period (2- 3 minutes) of planning time to decide on their communication commands. It can help participants if you suggest that they each develop a unique communication system. When participants swap roles, give participants some review and planning time to refine their communication method.
- Allow participants to trade roles and have several attempts, until a real, satisfied sense of skill and competence in being able to guide a partner through a minefield develops.
- The activity can be conducted one pair at a time, or with all pairs at once (creates a more demanding exercise due to the extra noise/confusion).
- It can be conducted as a competitive task - deciding which pair is the quickest or has the fewest hits?
- The facilitator plays an important role in creating an optimal level of challenge. You can consider introducing more items or removing items if it seems too easy or too hard. Also consider coaching participants with communication methods. For younger students, hint that they could benefit from coming up with clear commands for stop, forward, left, right, etc.).
- Be cautious about blind-folding people - it can provoke trust and care issues and trigger post-traumatic reactions. Minimize this risk by sequencing Mine Field within a longer program involving other get-to-know-you and trust building activities before Mine Field.



Amoeba Race

This is a fun game, using a basic biology concept of a single cell. It requires cooperation, competition and close physical interaction. It's useful as a simple activity to help a group get comfortable with one another.

- Explain how to create an amoeba. There are 3 parts:
 1. A lot of protoplasm (people who don't mind being close, gather together).
 2. A cell wall (people who like to contain themselves & others, surround the protoplasm, facing outward, linking elbows).
 3. A nucleus (someone with good eyesight and the ability to keep on top of things should be the nucleus, seated on the shoulders of some of the protoplasm)
- Once the amoeba is formed, try taking a walk through a field or around the block. A rhythmic chant might be helpful for coordinating movements. (What sort of sound does a one-celled creature make?)
- Finally, try a little cell division. Split into two, create a second nucleus and have an Amoeba Race.



Your First Outdoor Campout

Check List

- Backpack** (and/or large sports equipment bag or duffel bag). Line it with a plastic lawn bag first, to keep contents dry.)
- Sleeping Bag** (or blankets)
- Closed-cell foam camp sleeping pad** (\$7 – *Wal-Mart's* camping section)
- Raincoat or Poncho**
- Warm Jacket**
- Extra pair of pants**
- Sweater and/or Sweatshirt**
- Long sleeve shirt**
- Short sleeve shirt**
- Underwear**
- Hat**
- Mess-kit (bowl, cup, fork, spoon, plate)**
- 2 one-quart water bottles**
- Flashlight and extra batteries**
- Small first aid kit**
- Pen and pocket notepad/ Boy Scout Handbook**
- Personal Toiletries** (Toothbrush, toothpaste, small hand soap, comb, towel, toilet paper).
- Other Items:**

First Troop Meeting Plan

The purpose of this meeting is to have a fun-filled first meeting that accomplishes 3 goals:

1. Prepares the new Boy Scout for his first campout with the troop (ideally the next weekend).
2. Introduces the new Boy Scout to the patrol method.
3. Introduces the new Boy Scout to the advancement program, especially the Tenderfoot requirements.

Activity	Description	Run By	Time
Pre-Opening 10 Minutes	Conduct a “shake down” of camping equipment of your new Scouts to make sure they are ready for their first campout. Make sure your troop has enough tents/patrol equipment for their first campout (ideally the upcoming weekend)	Senior Patrol Leader, Troop Guide	6:55-7:05
Opening 5 Minutes	Pledge of Allegiance, Scout Oath, Scout Law	Senior Patrol Leader	7:05-7:10
Skills Instruction 25 Minutes	Tenderfoot requirements round-robin. The purpose is to introduce requirements, not master or complete them. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First aid – simple cuts and scratches, blisters on the hand or foot, minor burns, insect bites, nosebleeds, sunburn or frostbite, poisonous snakes. • Physical Fitness – Push-ups, Pull-ups, Sit-ups, Standing long jump, ¼ mile walk/run. • Knots – two half hitches, taut-line hitch. 	Troop Guide, selected troop members, Assistant Scoutmaster	7:10-7:35
Patrol Meetings 15 Minutes	Assign each boy to an existing new boy patrol or create a new one. Elect a Patrol Leader and Assistant. Troop guide shows how to plan a menu and duty roster.	Troop Guide	7:35-7:50
Inter-Patrol Activity 10 Minutes	Select a game out of “ <i>Troop Program Resources.</i> ”	Senior Patrol Leader	7:50-8:00
Closing 5 Minutes	SPL thanks Webelos for attending meeting. Leads in closing Flag Ceremony.	Senior Patrol Leader	8:00-8:05
After the meeting	Call all new boys, thank them for coming and remind them of the campout this weekend.	Scoutmaster	

Boy Talks/School Assemblies

Materials Needed:

- Backpack
- Canoe Paddle
- Hot Spark kit, cotton ball, pie pan
- Flyers
- High Adventure Surveys
- Clip board
- Pens

Good morning!

My name's _____ and I'm going to talk with you for just a few minutes. Are you tough guys?

Really, what did you do this weekend? Hold on, let me guess. You sat on the couch eating potato chips, watched TV, and played video games.

I thought you said you were tough guys? Okay, we'll see. How many of you are tough enough to throw on a 30-pound backpack and go hiking for 50 miles? (*pick up a backpack*)

Alright, who here is man enough to jump in a canoe and go down a freezing cold whitewater river through rapids and waterfalls? (*pick up a canoe paddle*)

Ok, some of you might be tough enough. Who's tough enough to strap on a harness and hang 50 feet in the air from a rope?

Toughest one yet, who here is tough enough, man enough to go camping out in the woods for a whole week without your little brother or little sister, just you and your friends?

Ok, I think a couple of you might be able to handle what I've got for you. I've got one last thing for you to see. I want everybody to close your eyes and imagine that school's out for the summer. You're taking a *trip with your friends out west to Montana. You're spending a week backpacking in the mountains and today you're climbing to the top of a 10,000 foot mountain. It's July, but you're so high up that there is still snow on the ground. You get near the top and sit down in the snow to eat supper. As you're eating you look out over a huge valley and a huge lake. And as you're looking out you start to see fireworks being shot off from a town in the valley, because it's the fourth of July. But you're so high up on the mountain that you're actually looking down on those fireworks. How many of you can handle something like that?*

Well, that's not some story I just made up, I actually did that the summer before I was in high school. I spent a week in Montana backpacking and camping in the snow in July, and I did it in the Scouts. (Insert your own personal high adventure story. Keep to 1 or 2 minutes). Now, not every Scout gets to do things like that, but guys who stay in Scouts might get the chance.

In case you didn't figure it out, Scouts are what I'm here to talk about today. It's going hiking, swimming, backpacking, waterskiing, canoeing, and rock climbing with your best friends. Guys, I'm not talking about Cub Scouts. It's not that little blue uniform, holding your mom's hand, and gluing two pieces of wood together so they can fall apart and you get a

gold star for trying. This is tough, it's challenging, and it's hard. I only need the tough guys here. I need guys who can handle a freezing cold river and go camping out in the woods. *(Time/date/location)* we're going to do a sign-up for any of you who think you can handle this kind of stuff.

I'll be honest, I know that not all of you are tough enough to be in the Scouts. I only want the guys here who want to go hiking, backpacking, rock climbing, snowboarding, canoeing, and water skiing with their friends. You guys ever heard that the Boy Scouts shoot BB guns? Well that's not true. We shoot rifles and shotguns in the Scouts. *(Time/date/location)* I'll get you guys set up.

Let me ask you guys a question, do you like money? Did you know that guys who join the Scouts and stay in it to earn the highest award earn about \$10,000 more a year than guys who weren't in Scouts? Do you guys know who Bill Gates is? Did you know he was a Scout? What about Steven Spielberg and Neil Armstrong? They were both Scouts, too. I know you guys like sports, did you know that Steve Young was a Scout, too? All these guys are rich and famous now, but when they were your age they were going hiking, camping, swimming, canoeing, rock climbing, and windsurfing with their friends. *(Time/date/location)* is when we're going to get you started.

How many of you like to travel? We do a lot of traveling in the Scouts. We have our own camp that has a climbing tower, lake for swimming and fishing, sailboats, and motorboats. The Scouts even have camps all over the country, we've got one in Minnesota where you can go canoeing on these huge lakes, there's a ranch called Philmont in New Mexico where you can hiking or rock climbing, and did you guys know that the Scouts have are own place in the Florida Keys? Scouts can go to the keys and go sailing or scuba diving.

You guys know the show Survivor, right? Well, Scouts would be pretty good on that show and tomorrow night I'm going to show you how to use your first piece of survival gear. Does anybody know what this is? *(hold up HotSpark)* It's flint and steel. It's a way to build a fire when you don't have matches or a lighter. Let me show you how this works. *(light cotton ball)*. Everybody who comes out *(Time/date/locations)* gets to try it.

(pass out flyer) Here's some information about what signing up. *(Time/date/location)* I'll see you guys. Thanks.

Then, ask for a show of hands: "Who thinks they might want to learn more?" circulate the clipboards with sign-up sheets and/or High Adventure surveys.

The most important part of the process comes next: That evening, call all the parents "to see if they have any questions." If your presentation went well, the boys will be pestering their parents about joining Scouts and the parents will be glad you called. Or, the boys "forgot" to take the flyer/informational packet home, so you will help them "remember". Keep notes on sign up sheets or on the back of the High Adventure surveys.

Explain to parents what Scouting is. Explain that the purpose of Scouting is to train youth in ethical decision making. Scouting also teaches leadership skills, communication skills, how to be a good citizen, and the importance of helping others. This is done in an outdoor classroom of fun and adventure.

The sample High Adventure survey below can be obtained from the service center or from your District Executive.

Look like fun?
Many Scout troops do all of these things and more!

Are you a Scout? yes no
 Would you like to be a Scout? yes no

NAME _____ GRADE _____ AGE _____
 ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____
 CITY _____ ZIP _____ SCHOOL _____

34241 2000 Boy Scouts of America

High-Adventure Survey

Check the activities you would like to do.

- Camping
- Swimming
- Horseback riding
- Canoeing
- Fishing
- Rock climbing
- Rafting
- Backpacking
- Cycling
- Snowboarding
- Sailing
- Motorboating

Research Findings

- Current Boy Scouts are significantly more likely than former or non-Scouts to play on an organized sports team.

Sport	Current Boy Scout	Former Boy Scout	Never been a Boy Scout
Soccer	50.7%	18.9%	17.6%
Baseball	48.8%	32.0%	22.6%
Basketball	42.3%	31.3%	17.6%
Football	40.9%	27.5%	18.4%

- 44% of all non-Scouts and former Scouts say that they are very interested (9.5%) or somewhat interested (34.6%) in joining Boy Scouts. Of that 44%, 67% say they were never asked. That means that for every 100 youth that are NOT in Boy Scouting 44 are interested, 14 were asked to join and 30 were not.
- Boy Scouts need to do a better job marketing our program to Jr. High-age youth and asking them to join our program. Local youth sports and local church organizations in almost all categories (except website) do a better job in getting their word out. When asked: During the past 12 months, have you or your son received any information from the following sources about the youth groups listed?

Organization	Newspaper	Flyer/ Newsletter	Family/ Friends	Website	Have Not Received any info.
Local Youth Sports	13.5%	46.2%	23.9%	5.2%	32.0%
Local church youth organizations	7.4%	32.5%	27.3%	3.7%	43.6%
<i>Boy Scouts</i>	<i>9.7%</i>	<i>31.7%</i>	<i>23.1%</i>	<i>5.9%</i>	<i>43.8%</i>
YMCA	14.9%	29.7%	11.9%	4.6%	45.8%
Boys and Girls Club	10.8%	17.9%	10.0%	5.0%	63.8%

- When asked what are the most important reasons why your son has not joined Boy Scouting, the top 5 responses were:
 1. Too Busy 54.2%
 2. Friends not in Scouts 44.9% - *Peer to peer recruiting*
 3. To focus more on sports 41.0% - *recruiting after season is over*
 4. Never thought about it 28.0% - *ask to join*
 5. Never been asked 28.3% - *ask to join*