

Troop Visitation Check List

Which Boy Scout Troop you join is a personal decision, each Scout needs to decide which one to join. It is ok, if all the Scouts join different troops as long as they feel the troop is right for them.

Each Boy Scout Troop has it's own personality, each one is different. The only way to discover which one is right for you is to visit as many as practical, (2-4) and then narrow down the list to finalists and then choose. A second or even third visit may be required.

A lot can be learned about a troop simply by observing. Some things to look for include:

- Location** Just like in real estate, location is important as Troop meetings are usually held weekly. If the location is convenient for you family, your son will be more likely to attend regularly. Remember, however, that the closest may not be the best suited.
- Activity level** Review the Troop's Schedule of Events and get a feel how active the Troop is. Talk to scouts to find out what outings they liked best and why? What trips have they taken? Do they have a central theme? Do they offer varied experiences?
- Scout Led** (perhaps the most important) A Boy Scout troop should be "Boy Led". The Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) should be in charge of the meetings. The chain of command should run through the patrol leaders. Adults should be there as resources, NOT LEADERS. The only time they should get involved in making decisions is as a reality check (done by the SM and PLC). Quick check ? Where is the scoutmaster standing ? Front of the room or in the back? To determine this, watch a meeting. Ask who plans the annual troop calendar. Ask about the Patrol Leaders Council and how it works. The concept of a "boy run unit" is very hard for us as parents and Cub Leaders to understand, but it is the way Boy Scout troops are designed to run...this is how the boys get the most out of the program.
- Outdoor Program** Does the troop maintain an active outdoor program ? Review the troop calendar and see if they keep going back to the same places or try new things?
- Range of ages** Does the troop consist of only older or younger boys or is there a good mixture of all ages?
- Progression** Do the higher ranking boys (Star, Life) have positions of leadership? Do they appear more mature in behavior? Do they seem more comfortable with their knowledge? Do they interact with the younger boys or stay to themselves?
- Size** Smaller Troops offer a personal touch. Larger\ troops may offer a wide range of activities. Troops should be broken down into 6-8 boy patrols.
- Fun** Do the scouts appear to be having fun? Without the meeting being chaotic? THIS IS IMPORTANT!!
- Cermonies** Is there a respectful flag ceremony to start/end the meeting? Is there a prayer or a Scoutmaster's Minute (where the Scoutmaster presents a thought provoking lesson)?

Troop Visit Checklist

Troop # Sponsor:

Meeting Place Meeting Day/Time:

How many boys are in the troop? How many patrols?

Is there an upper limit to the size of the troop? Yes No What is it?

Age breakout:	10 1/2 - 12	13-14	15 - 16	17 - 18

How long has the troop been in existence? yrs

Is the troop a Quality Unit (look for the patch on their uniform shirtsleeve) Yes No

Who is the Senior Patrol Leader ?

Who is the Scoutmaster ?

Was the Scoutmaster a Scout as a youth? Yes No

Was the Scoutmaster an Eagle Scout ? Yes No

How often does the troop go camping ?

	check if yes	Where ?
What type of camping does the troop normally do?		
Summer Camp		
Camporees		
Troop Camping		
Patrol Camping		
Backpacking		
High Adventure		
Other		

Uniform requirements	Required	Optional
Cap		
Shirt		
Official BSA Pants		
Belt		
Official BSA shorts		
Socks		
Neckerchief		
Bolo		

Does the troop have a Class B uniform ? Yes No

If so, what is it?

Has the troop ever visited Philmont, Sea Base or Northern Tier? Yes No

When does the troop plan to go again ?

Has the troop attended a National Jamboree ? Yes No When?

Are you planning to attend the next one ? Yes No

Does the troop have a Patrol Leaders Council ? Yes No

If yes, how often do they meet ?

Where are new Scouts placed upon joining the troop?	a dedicated new boy patrol	dispersed to existing patrols

Is a Troop Guide (older scout) assigned to the New Boy patrol to help them out?

Yes	No
-----	----

Can parents of new scouts be assigned to help with the new boy patrol?

Yes	No
-----	----

On average in this troop, how long does it take for boys to earn

Rank	Time
Scout	
Tenderfoot	
2nd Class	
First Class	
Star	
Life	

What percentage of boys make Eagle?

%

How many Eagles has this troop graduated in the past 5 years?

Are Eagles still active in the troop?

Yes	No
-----	----

Average age of boy attaining Eagle?

yrs old

Who can sign off my achievements ?

	check off
Scoutmaster	
Asst. Scoutmaster	
Junior Asst. Scoutmaster	
Senior Patrol Leader	
Patrol Leader	
Troop Guides	
Scout Instructors	
Other Adult Leader	
Parents	
Myself	

How often are Scoutmasters Conferences held?

How often are Courts of Honor held?

What is the average time for a scout to assume a leadership position ?

How many scouts in the Troop are members of the Order of the Arrow ?

How many scouts are elected to the OA each year?

Does the Troop have a religious awards coordinator ?

Yes	No
-----	----

Does the Troop have a published set of bylaws

Yes	No
-----	----

Does the Troop have a published code of conduct?

Yes	No
-----	----

Does the Troop have a Troop Handbook?

Yes	No
-----	----

Leadership:

Who runs the troop meetings?

Senior PL	Patrol Leaders	Scoutmaster	Other Scouts	Asst SM's	Other Adults

Are leaders required to take training

Basic + SM specific	Youth Prot'n	Woodbadge	Philmont	CPR/1st Aid	Safe Swim

Are leaders encouraged to attend Roundtables?
Does at least one leader from the troop attend RT's regularly?

Yes	No
Yes	No

Do any of the leaders serve in a District or Council capacity?
(trainer, roundtable staff, camporee staff, etc.)

Yes	No
-----	----

Older Scouts

Does the Troop have a program specifically for older scouts ?
If so, describe:

Yes	No
-----	----

Is there a Venture Crew associated with the Troop ?
If not, is one planned ?

Yes	No
Yes	No

Do scouts participate in Junior Leader Training ?

Yes	No
-----	----

Does the Troop have Junior Asst. Scoutmasters ?

Yes	No
-----	----

Does the troop provide Den Chiefs to local Packs?

Yes	No
-----	----

Financials:

Is there a registration fee? Yes No How much is it? \$

How much are the annual Troop dues? \$ When is it collected?

Are there Patrol Dues? Yes No How much is it? \$
 When is it collected?

Are there any other additional fees? Yes No

if so:

Type	Amount	when collected

Does the Troop have a fundraiser(s)? Yes No

Is so, are they:

Popcorn	<input type="text"/>
Wreaths	<input type="text"/>
Car Wash	<input type="text"/>
Bake Sale	<input type="text"/>
Other(s)	<input type="text"/>

Do Scouts wind up having to solicity door - to - door? Yes No

Parent roles and responsibilities:

Can parents attend campouts or summer camp? Yes No

Are parents required to take on helper responsibilities (driving, etc.) ? Yes No

Are parents encouraged to become troop leaders (ASM's, Committee members)? Yes No

Are parents advised as to their behavior, responsibilities, etc. when around the boys? Yes No

What special equipment will I need to purchase for my new Scout?