

Tips on Recruiting Adults for Camp

The biggest difficulty for packs wishing to attend the Cub Camps is recruiting the necessary adult leadership to participate in the camp, whether it is walkers for Day Camp or adult supervision for Adventure Camp. Here are some tips to help you get your parents involved and in camp.

GENERAL TIPS

Ideally, your parents are already very involved with the pack, attending den meetings and helping with events, and have bought in to the fact that Cub Scouting is a family activity, not a boy activity. Those parents will be much easier to recruit to help out at camp, and it may only take a personal, one-on-one conversation asking them to walk for a day at Day Camp or to attend Adventure Camp to get them to agree.

For all those parents that don't fall into the above group, do not be afraid to use a little guilt to get them to help out. It's okay to tell parents, "If we don't get enough walkers, our boys won't be able to attend Day Camp" because it's true. Ask parents if, 20 years from now, they'll remember the three days they spent at Adventure Camp with their son or the three days they spent in meetings and answering e-mails at work.

Hand out the flyer from the camp promotion packet entitled "Why Your Son Should Go to Camp." Describe helping the pack with its adult leadership needs at camp as an opportunity to spend time with their son making memories that will last a lifetime.

DAY CAMP WALKERS

Sometimes you are lucky and have a parent (or more) who is able to walk the entire Day Camp with the pack's Scouts. When that happens, it's great for your pack coordinator (less work getting adults involved) and for the boys (more consistent leadership throughout the camp). But when you don't have that happen (or have one who can but need more walkers), there are several ways you can get walkers for your pack.

- Require everyone sending a boy to Day Camp to provide an adult to walk for one day. A survey of Day Camp parents last year indicated that almost all of them would still send their boy to Day Camp if their pack required them to walk one day. The one walker per six boys requirement gives you a little flexibility for parents who absolutely have no way of serving as a walker. With a five-day camp, you can have one parent out of every six boys not serve as a walker. For a four-day camp, you can have one parent out of every three boys not serve as a walker.
- Remind parents that it doesn't have to be a parent walking. Grandparents, aunts and uncles, and siblings over 18 years old can all serve as walkers. In addition, families can split up a day, with one parent walking in the morning and the other taking over at lunchtime and covering the afternoon.

- Stress the need for walkers from the beginning. Be sure to remind parents to block out a day from work early in the year so they're not trying to rearrange their schedule the week before Day Camp when the pack is still looking for walkers.
- Tell parents what is expected of them as walkers (see the Day Camp Coordinator Guide for details). The primary responsibilities are getting the boys from station to station and maintaining order in the group.
- Provide a sign-up chart at pack meetings with the days of Day Camp listed across the top and a row for each walker needed for the week. Remind parents to sign up early to walk so they get their choice of day.

ADVENTURE CAMP ADULTS

The adult leadership requirements for Adventure Camp are not as straightforward as they are for Day Camp. The first task is to determine how many adults the pack needs to have in camp. The requirements are:

- At least two adults in camp at all times (two-deep leadership)
- Two adults for the first 8 boys (see above), plus one adult for each additional 8 boys
- At least one adult for each rank (Wolf, Bear, and Webelos)

For example, if you have five boys (1 Wolf, 1 Bear, 3 Webelos), you would need three adults in camp at all times. If you have 18 boys (all Webelos), you would need four adults in camp at all times.

Once you have determined how many adults you need, then you can focus on recruiting them. Because you're asking them for several days of help, you may need to work harder with personal appeals and a little guilt to get them to agree. Parents of the boys attending are your obvious targets, and the pack can provide incentives for them to attend camp with their sons. For example, the pack could offer to pay the camp fee of any registered leader attending camp or pay for any Webelos parents attending camp. Ask parents personally to attend camp with their son, especially those with boys who have above-average supervision needs (you know who they are). Be sure to remind them of the old Scouting saying, "A bad day at camp still beats a good day at work."