



Scout Executive's Message Christian J. Long, SE

Opportunity. That is what we owe the kids in our communities - the opportunity to join a quality Scouting program in their area. The opportunity for fun, the opportunity to make new friends, and the opportunity to learn from committed adult volunteers who are there to carry out the mission of the Boy Scouts of America.

What can we do to enhance this wonderful opportunity for our kids? First, conduct a well-planned recruitment effort this summer and fall. All Cub Scout Packs will be asked to have a School Night in late August or early September. This year we will once again be running the Race to Cub Scouting theme, but with a little twist. We realize that some schools are limiting or refusing us access to distribute fliers in school and conduct boy talks. The "My Best Friend is a Scout" program, when done correctly, helps packs overcome these barriers! We will teach you how to use the program correctly. Troops should also conduct a fall recruitment to invite kids, who are not currently in Scouting programs, to join. Sure, it's a little tougher than recruiting current Webelos Scouts, but I guarantee you that there are kids out there looking for your troop! I know this because I did not join Boy Scouts until I was almost 16 years old. We are also looking into conducting career and hobby surveys in middle schools and high schools to help with Exploring and Venturing recruitment.

The second thing you can do is address the "quality" issue of your program by making it the very best that it can be. Make sure that all of your leaders are basic trained. Training is getting easier to do all the time with many courses becoming available online. Conduct a program planning session and organize your Scouting year well in advance. Plan for outings, fundraisers, and regular meetings and make sure that your unit calendar is written down, published, and made available to all families. People want to join a winning team and you need to show others that your unit IS a winning team! It is also easier to recruit additional leaders when they see that you have a well-organized unit. Make it a habit to attend your district's monthly Roundtable. It is a perfect time to learn from other leaders and to share your ideas with them.

More. Yes, we want more. More kids, more money, more programs, more volunteers, more of everything! And we want it now... Our kids deserve more, so let's "Do Our Best" to find more and to make our Scouting programs in Lincoln Trails the very best they can be.

2010 Membership Fee Increase

The National BSA has decided to increase the membership registration fee to \$15 (we collect \$16 to cover the accident and sickness insurance for all members) beginning January 1, 2010. The Exploring fee will remain at \$10. this is the first membership increase since 2003, and was deemed necessary to continue the support of the program at its current level. National will do its best to hold that new fee for at least 3 years. As your unit does its annual budget, please take these new fees into account.

The Trailblazer is the newsletter of
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The Trailblazer is published six times a year: January, March, May, July, September, and November

The Trailblazer is available online at www.lincolntrailscouncil.org. To be added to the distribution list please contact Matt Kaufman.