

# How to choose a Boy Scout Troop

(The information below is being supplied by Troop 67 of Northside Baptist Church, Mesquite, TX, 3130 Moon Drive as a service to all Webelos, Parents, and Webelos leaders with Scouts about to crossover.)

When visiting a Boy Scout Troop we believe that there are some things that you will want to look for to help identify a well run troop. All Scout programs should work toward the three **aims** of Boy Scouting. The **methods** are designed to accomplish these **aims** and strive to instill values based on those found in the **Boy Scout Oath and Law**. **See the BSA Mission Statement that goes into more detail.**

We have put together a list of items we think you should look for and examine when you visit a Boy Scout Troop. The Scout program is for Youth from age 11-18, so your decision is an important one. Talk it over with your Son!

**Troop Meeting run by Youth** - The troop is a real life opportunity for Scouts to learn leadership through participation. It is unfortunately a well kept secret that the Scout program is leadership training program with the outdoors as a laboratory.

**Patrol Method Used** - The Patrol Method gives Scouts and experience in-group living and participating leadership. The patrol determines troop activities through their elected representatives.

**Trained Youth & Adults** - Understanding the concepts of leadership helps each person accept the leadership roles of others and guides them toward the citizenship aim of Scouting.

**Uniformed Youth & Adults** - The uniform makes the Scout troop visible as a group. It shows each Youth and Adult's commitment to the aims and purposes of Scouting.

**Troop Meeting Planned by YOUTH** - Patrol Leaders Council of the Troop should plan the Troop meetings, campouts and activities. It is an important part of the leadership experience.

**Troop Calendar Planned by YOUTH** - Ask who planned the calendar. It should be planned by the Patrol Leaders Council and approved by the Troop Committee. NOT by the adults.

**Troop Calendar Published** - It needs to be planned and published or it doesn't exist.

**Troop Roster Published** - Look and see if you find someone you know and then call them. Ask them about the program, leaders and activities.

**Troop Monthly Mailings** - Even the best calendar needs updating.

**Troop Program Explained During Visit** - Each Scout program should plan programs that work towards the three aims of Scouting.

**Dues and Fees Explained** - You should know how the Troop program is financed and what the money you are paying is used for. Find out what the campouts and activities cost.

**Troop Fund Raising Assists Youth** - We believe the purpose of fund raising is to help you and your son participate in Scouting. We usually return 75% of profits to each individual Scout's Account.

**Enthusiasm of Youth & Adults** - If the youth and adults are not excited by their program, why should you join!

**Did You get Asked to Join?** - Not only should you be made to feel welcome at the Troop Meeting, you should be invited.

**How does your Son Feel?** - What was your son's impression of the visit? When he joins a program, you also become part of it