

**SCOUTS-L**

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**PARENT  
INVOLVEMENT**

Date: Wed, 12 Mar 1997 15:34:37 -0600  
From: "Blaine A. Jackson" <blainej@JUNO.COM>  
Subject: Re: Parent involvement in Boy Scouts

On Tue, 11 Mar 1997 20:30:22 EST "David F. Delman"  
<71155.2447@COMPUSERVE.COM> writes:

>A Scouts-L Cub Parent wrote the following inside of a message.

You should have seen the look in two parents eyes when I explained to  
>them that they won't be camping with their sons if they go to the April  
>campout.

>I was told by a troop that my son and I visited that I wasn't invited  
>whether it be meetings or campouts. They already had enough adults and  
>they had found parents were difficult.

There is an important difference between these two positions. The first only states that the parent will not be camping with the son. This is a very reasonable requirement. I can even see telling a parent that he or she cannot attend a particular campout(s).

I have had 2 or 3 cases in which I needed to separate the parent and son for the son's sake. In one, the son would only go camping when his father went along; I eventually learned that they carried 2-way radios so that the son could talk with his father at night. In another, a mother kept letting new scouts use her cell phone to call home during their first campout with the troop. In both these cases, the parent needed to stay home, at least until the boys had adjusted to camping without them.

Parents are always welcome to come to our campouts. If they come, however, they must follow our rules. (A friend had a father come on a canoeing outing who refused to wear a PFD while on the river. Do you cancel the whole outing?) I am afraid I often offend new parents on campouts by asking them to sit down or not to help their son with his duties. I can understand their actions, I was just as bad when I crossed over to Boy Scouts, but they usually get the idea pretty soon. I have had new parents look very bewildered as the ASM's and I sat with out feet propped up and drank coffee or hot chocolate while the boys cooked, cleaned and packed on Sunday morning.

The second situation described is difficult to believe, although there is one troop in this area which is somewhat exclusive about participation. I welcome all parents to troop meetings to watch. They can all be on the

committee, and some will be invited to be ASM's. I try to find a job for anyone who wants one. In many cases, I suspect that there is a misunderstanding by the parent about the type of involvement that is expected in Boy Scouts. Sometimes it seems that the longer a parent has been involved in Cub Scouts, the harder the transition for the parent.

YIS,

Blaine Jackson (J.D.) SM T450 Bentonville, Arkansas 1st SA Jambo T1807I used to be a Bodacious Bobwhite I will always be a Razorback I am trying to raise Eagles

From <@pucc.PRINCETON.EDU:owner-scouts-l@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU> Wed Mar 12 17:32:05 1997  
Return-Path: <@pucc.PRINCETON.EDU:owner-scouts-l@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU>  
Date: Wed, 12 Mar 1997 17:22:04 -0500  
From: "Steven G. Tyler" <sgtyler@EROLS.COM>  
Subject: Re: Parent involvement in Boy Scouts

dave livingston wrote:

>  
> > In any case, I'd take a long, hard look at the adult leadership and why  
> > they aren't making use of one of their best resources.  
>>  
> Maybe I would ask the question, What role do adults have at a well-run  
> Troop meeting?  
>  
> We are talking boy-run, aren't we?  
>  
You're kidding, right? Right?

"Boy-run" doesn't mean "adult-free," at least not in any Troop I've seen. In addition to the SM's regular participation during the meeting, and ASM's participation in the patrol and troop activities during the meeting, committee members are regularly conducting BoR's, collecting and disbursing funds, even (like I am tonight) participating in a skill presentation for the troop. It takes a LOT of adult planning and participating to create a "boy-run" program!

--

YIS

Steve on Cattail Creek

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