

## PICKING A BOY SCOUT TROOP

Source: <http://www.hightowertrail.com/CubScouts.html#Special>

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, which goes into more details.

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 ages 11-18, so your decision is an important one. Talk it over with your Son!

- **Troop Meeting run by Youth** - A troop is where Scouts to learn leadership through participation. It is unfortunately a well kept secret that Scouting is a leadership training program with the outdoors as a laboratory.
- **Patrol Method Used** - The Patrol Method gives Scouts an experience in group living and participating in leadership activities. The patrols determine 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 Meetings 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.
- **Troop Calendar Published** - It needs to be planned and published or it does not 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 Fundraising Assists Youth** - We believe the purpose of fund raising is to help you and your son participate in Scouting. Most of the profits go to items that benefit the Scouts.
- **Enthusiasm of Youth & Adults** - If the youth and adults are not excited by their program, why should you join!
- **Were you asked to Join** - Not only should you be made to feel welcome at the Troop Meeting.
- **How does your Son Feel** - What was your son's impression of the visit. When he joins a program, *you also become a part of it.*