

Join Scout Night Event: Hiking Adventure

This Join Scout Night Event gives prospective parents and youth an opportunity to actually do the promise of Scouting. It will allow them to engage with leaders and Scouting families at a personal and face-to-face level. It also can fit right in with a Pack's program plan. Join Scout Night Events are intended to: be fun, answer questions and create excitement. If done correctly parents will envision their family in Scouting, no matter what that family may look like. If asked correctly as part of this Join Scout Night Event, families often enroll their children right there on the spot.

This template is one in a series of fun Join Scout Night Events that are designed to be fun and get new families to join Scouting. They may be used as is or as an idea generator for your Unit. Please feel free to adapt this to an already planned activity. Every community is different! These Join Scout Night Events can be facilitated by individual units or by several units in a community.

1. **Location:** Choose a common location for this event that is conducive to a short, easy hike. Parking should be plentiful. The trail should be well marked. Make sure there is a clear start point. Its important that this is something that can be entered into Google Maps and easily found.
2. **The Presentation:** It is suggested that the main presentation is given at the beginning of the event to all parents at once. This presentation provides a comprehensive overview while keeping things simple and unified. If there are questions, offer to answer them one on one as the hike begins. If you wait until the end of the hike to do the presentation, the risk is that parents will be tired and want to go home without listening.
 - a. **Do a check in:** collect names, emails, and phone numbers. Consider a QR code to google forms to collect information without paper. Or if using paper, be sure to bring a clipboard.



3. **Before you set off:** give families their first experience of what a Cub Scout hike looks like. Do a gear check (its recommended to have extra water). Discuss the outdoor code and what it means. Review good hiking etiquette and principals.
4. **Along the trail:** stop frequently. New families may not be accustomed to the pace. Do frequent water breaks. During these stops, consider reviewing basic first aid, common plant identification, compass basics, or other fun Cub Scouts lessons.
5. **At the peak or view:** share what Cub Scouting means to your families. Highlight fun adventures or memories. Consider having the kids themselves tell parents why Scouting is important to them.
6. **End of the Hike with a snack or Picnic:** Use this time to follow up with families. All prospective families should receive a Joining Packet. At this point, offer a time to rest and chat while filling out applications if they are ready to join. Its important to bring clipboards and paper applications because beascout.org may not be an option with limited cell signal. Its also important to not use this time as a way to recruit new volunteers unless a parent is vocally wanting to know more. Save that conversation for the parent onboarding meeting later in the month.

Timeline: Below is a suggested timeline to make sure your event is a success.

- 60 Days Out: Select hiking trail and make any necessary reservations.
- 60 Days Out: Put on unit calendar and promote to families.
- 60 Days Out: Review Recruitment Guidebook for how to promote event.
- 60 Days Out: Get Peer-to-Peer cards to families so they can invite non-Scout friends.
- 30 Days Out: Recruit and brief Volunteers, Parents and Scouts to help.
- 30 Days Out: Complete Recruitment Material Order Form. QR below.
- 20 Days Out: Social Media Event Created
- 14 Days Out: Get Recruitment packet/supplies from Scout Office.
- 14 Days Out: Prepare other needed Materials and Supplies.
- 10 Days Out: Put up Fliers and Yard Signs to promote event.
- 7 Days Out: Fliers and Cub Chats at local Schools if allowed.
- 5 Days Out: Confirmation and Reminders to Pack and those helping with the event.



Supplies Needed: Here is a suggested list of supplies for this Adventure.

- Lots of clipboards
- Sign-in Sheet
- Pens
- Youth and Adult Applications as well as printed QR code for beascout.org
- Printed Outdoor Code
- Printed Hiking and Etiquette Principals
- Family Joining Packets
- Unit materials to add to Joining Packets like a print Program Calendar
- First Aid Kit
- Snacks/Picnic Items/Extra water bottles

Scan the QR code below to request flyers to promote your event. Other supplies are also available.

