

New Scout Sign-Up Event: Park Safari

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. **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 safari begins. If you wait until the end of the safari 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. **Park Safari Activity Stations:** for this activity, spread out your existing families to create fun safari stations throughout the park. Stations should be easily identifiable from the main gathering point. Encourage station leaders to wear their Pack T Shirt or a coordinated color to be easily visible. If you are short on volunteers to host



stations, consider reaching out to your neighboring troop to have Scouts lead the stations. Station ideas below as suggestions but we encourage you to be creative!

- a. Making animal masks with the children.
 - b. Going on a short walk/hike and playing Nature Hike Bingo. Use crayons to mark things off on the Bingo Card.
 - c. Doing the Wolf Call of the Wild Adventure, Animal Identification. Have kids look for and identify animals or signs of animals like homes, tracks or sounds.
 - d. Doing the Bear Necessities Adventure, What to Bring for an Overnight Campout. Have camping and household items spread out on a table. Have kids stand 30 feet away. One at a time they run to the table and grab an item that they think they need on a campout. They bring it back and explain why they think this is a good item to have. If correct they place the item down. If not correct they have to return the item to the table. Use this as a teaching moment.
4. **End of the stations 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 park and make any necessary reservations. You may need to file a city permit depending on your area.
- 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 (Council will create when the Material Order Form is completed).
- 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
- 2 Yard Signs
- Printed Animal Masks
- Elastic Cord
- Printed Bingo Cards
- Family Joining Packets
- Unit materials to add to Joining Packets like a printed Program Calendar.
- First Aid Kit
- Crayons
- Scissors
- Camping and Household Items for game

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





1910 Baden Powell Way
Dover, DE 19904
302-622-3300

www.delmarvacouncil.org



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