

Northern Star Council BSA



# SPRING 2017 RECRUITMENT EVENT

(AT THE TROOP LEVEL)

**We're asking all Troops to hold an open house recruitment event this spring, for potential new Boy Scouts, and a big activity for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year Webelos that have transitioned into the Troop!**



## FREE ALPHA III ROCKETS & LAUNCHER!

*(While supplies last, so sign up early! Engines and igniters not included.)*

**By setting your recruitment date, before May 15, and communicating that to your District's Membership Chair, you can receive a rocket launcher, and 4 Alpha III rockets. Contact the Council Office if you like to request more than 4.**

**Before we can put the values of Scouting into boys,  
we must first put boys into Scouting.**

2017



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### Planning

- **SET A DATE FOR THE OPEN HOUSE/WEBELOS EVENT (Spring of 2017)– check school, church, and community calendars first. Communicate your date to the District membership chair, and pick up your rockets and launcher.**
- Purchase the engines and igniters before the launch, and assemble the rockets in advance.
- Is your start time conducive to travel needs? Meal times? Parents' & Kids' schedules?
- Involve all troop, youth, and adults, including troop committee members and parents.
- Plan each part of the Open House/Rally, give assignments, and be sure it is youth run.
- Have plenty of Boy Scout applications on hand; also Adult Leader applications.
- Plan for a campout or special troop activity to take place soon after the Open House.

### Publicizing and Inviting

- **Challenge current Boy Scouts and any incoming Webelos to “Bring a Friend” to the event. Add youth incentives for those who successfully recruit a new Scout.**
- **Promote the earning of the recruiter patch.**
- **Utilize unit Facebook posts for invites.**
- Order FREE flyers and posters; flyers can be printed with your troop information.
- **Identify sources for prospective members:** friends of incoming Webelos, friends of current Scouts, last spring's Webelos who didn't join a troop, boys belonging to your charter partner organization, any other local sources.
- Make it clear that parents are invited too.
- **Do in-school presentations where possible.**
- **Meet with local Pastors or heads of churches, and set up a presentation to the youth, along with putting up posters and bulletin inserts where possible.**
- **Place posters and distribute flyers at schools, charter partners, libraries, outdoor equipment stores, and other community locations.**
- Place announcement in community newspaper, charter partner newsletter, municipal cable TV, and other community bulletins.
- **Mail/distribute invitations/flyers at least 2 weeks in advance; give contact info for RSVP.**
- One or two days before, make last minute reminder phone calls to prospective members.

**The High Adventure Survey has shown that 30 to 60% of non-Scouts would like to join a troop.**

The Boy Scouts of America recommends that recruitment efforts be concentrated on fifth and sixth graders in early spring, as they approach Boy Scout age. Several resources can be used to spark their interest, including introducing youth to Scouting with an interactive presentation.

Cooperation of schools is essential to gain access to Scout-age youth. Contact school administration to schedule presentation time before, after, or during school. Plan the presentation to highlight Scouting's activities, high adventure, and outdoor experiences. Display hands-on visuals such as backpacks, canoes, and tents, and allow youth to check them out up close. Dress in outdoor wear to complete the setting. The presentation should be no more than five minutes.

Following the presentation, give each youth a High Adventure Survey. Ask them to check the high adventure experiences that interest them.





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## Sample Troop Open House Agenda

### 1. Pre-opening

- Conduct a simple action game for early arrivals.  
**Flying Disk Golf** – Set up a flying disk golf course outdoors or in a large room. Use your imagination to develop the hazards. Use waste cans or boxes as the holes, number them one through nine, and let the players work their way through the course. You might want to establish par for each hole, depending on the degree of difficulty.

### 2. Opening

- Flag Ceremony  
The troop is formed by patrols in two lines facing each other. The flag is marched up the aisle between the lines, with the Scouts saluting. The flag bearers halt at the head of the lines, whereupon the troop gives the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Welcome and Introductions  
**Empowering boys to be leaders** is the core of Scouting. One of the most important challenges as Scoutmaster is to train boy leaders to run the troop by providing direction, coaching, and support. Let them lead their patrols and their troop.

### 3. Activity Time

- See page 4 for ideas and support materials available for your troop
- Parent orientation  
Explain the ideals and values of Scouting  
Introduce the troop leadership and its organization  
Distribute the troop calendar  
Explain the summer camp opportunity  
Thoroughly explain the costs of troop membership

### 4. Camp Promotion

- Many Point/Tomahawk Scout Reservation Summer Camp Promotional DVD  
<http://camping.northernstarbsa.org/BoyScoutVenturing.aspx>

### 5. Joining Process

- New youth and parents complete applications to join Scouting
- Announce information about the next troop meeting

### 6. Closing

- Scoutmaster's Minute - **Wisdom**  
Walt Disney was once asked what a person would need to do to be like him. Disney named four steps: 1. **Think!** Think about the values and principles that guide you. 2. **Believe!** Believe in yourself. 3. **Dream!** Dream of something you want to do. 4. **Dare!** Dare to make your dream a reality.
- Closing Ceremony  
Call the troop to attention. All Scouts give the Scout sign and recite together the Scout Oath and Law. After saying the Scout Oath, read the points of the Scout Law with the Scouts repeating each point (Scoutmaster: A Scout is trustworthy. Scouts: A Scout is trustworthy.) Continue through all 12 points of the Scout Law.

### 7. Refreshments

- Kick the Can Ice Cream (see page 4 for directions)



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## Rocket Launch –

- Assemble the rockets and launcher BEFORE the event. There is some gluing and drying time required. Not recommended, but if you do the rocket assembly the same day, do use super glue so it dries faster. You will need to purchase the engines and igniters in advance of the launch (They are not included with the rockets provided).
- Follow rocket and launcher assembly instructions provided. Batteries are required for the launcher remote.
- These rockets float back to earth using the parachute in them, so when choosing the launch pad site, it's important to take into consideration the direction of the wind, and the path the rocket will likely float back down on. Avoid streets, powerlines, trees, buildings, etc.
- When rockets are assembled, and launcher is ready, stretch remote cord as far away from the launch pad as it will go; this is the distance where you need to create a launch line, in which all youth and adults need to stand behind.
- Hold an additional activity during the launch, so youth can stay active, and rotate into the launch area when their turn comes. This may be the Kick the Can Ice Cream Activity listed below, and/or something else.
- Have fun, and ensure all youth get a chance to launch the rockets.
- TIPS:
  - Often igniters are bad. If everything was set up correctly, and it's not launching, try a new igniter.
  - Sometimes you need to hold down the launch button for a short amount of time, vs just pushing it, for it to launch.

## Kick the Can Ice Cream

One 1 lb. empty coffee can  
 One 3 lb. empty coffee can  
 Mixing cup & measuring spoon  
 1 cup heavy cream  
 ½ cup sugar

¼ cup rock salt  
 Masking tape or duct tape  
 Ice & Hammer (to break it up)  
 1 cup milk  
 1 tsp vanilla

1. In small (1 lb.) coffee can, mix all ingredients together. Place lid on can – tape with masking or duct tape to secure.
2. Place 1 lb. can into 3 lb. can. Use hammer to break up ice. Place ice around 1 lb. can. Sprinkle with ¼ cup rock salt. Cover 3 lb. can and tape to secure.
3. Roll can on floor for 10-15 minutes until ice cream is frozen.