RECRUITING AND RETAINING OLDER SCOUTS

Troop 152 North Kingston RI
John Ackermann, ASM
Older Scouts recruit older Scouts

• Older Scouts that join the troop are typically a friend of existing Scouts
• Engaged, motivated and present older Scouts are key
• Older Scouts stay engaged by having fun and having purpose
  • Program design and execution is key
• Be visible in community
Recruiting

• Most older Scouts that join are recruited by existing Scouts
  • Scouts invite potential Scout to a meeting – check it out
  • Introduce the prospective Scout at meeting and integrate
  • Adult leaders meet with the parents

• Siblings of existing Scouts
  • Invite to district or troop recruiting events

• Bring a Friend night
  • Plan in advance – communicate to Scouts and Parents
  • Use incentive

• Membership coordinator

• Social media - FB
Having fun is key to recruitment and retention

- SPLs and leaders design program
- Keep program fresh
- Challenging and memorable events
  - Climb a mountain or two
  - Whitewater rafting
  - Hike, backpack
  - OKPIK
  - Ski/snowboard
  - Camp, camp, camp

Question from Friend at School on Monday:
“What did you do this weekend?”
“I summited a mountain” or “I built and slept in an igloo”
Motivated and engaged Scouts stay active

• Having purpose
  • Leading – Youth leadership model
  • Making a difference in our community

• Learning
  • New Skills/Competencies
  • Leadership – Positions/Projects/NYLT

• Achieving
  • New Skills/Competencies – Handbook/MB
  • Advancement – Path to Eagle
  • Klondike Derby

Eagle SM Conference:
SM: “Why do you think that older Scouts stay active in 152 and go to Camp?”
Eagle Candidate: “It’s our turn to lead.”
Be visible in the community

• Community Service
  • Scouting for Food
  • Food Pantry
  • Honoring our charter organization VFW Post 152 through involvement in community activities

• Eagle Projects
• Parades
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Many Thanks

• To our Scouts
• To our Leaders
• To our Parents
• To our Narragansett Council staff
• To Camp Yawgoog
Questions and Discussion