

Membership Overview

The Federal charter from United States Congress charges the Boy Scouts of America to make its program available to all who are eligible, but recognizes that young people must become members in order to derive the benefits available from the Scouting program. Those who administer the program must, therefore, serve the membership and also actively and purposefully recruit new members.

As a membership organization, we must seek opportunities to retain our current members and to increase our new membership through recruitment. The holding of high values and the acceptance of the philosophy offered by the Boy Scouts of America through its program touch young people's lives after they become members. Those who believe youngsters need what we have to offer will redouble efforts to touch the lives of as many as possible.

The Boy Scouts of America is not just an organization but is a growth movement. As a movement it is our responsibility to reach into our communities and work with charter partners to provide youth programs that develop character, citizenship and physical fitness. As our Cub Scout Pack, Boy Scout Troops and Venture Crews grow the organization not only serves additional youth but gains additional volunteers from within the families. As we grow there are more families to enjoy the Scouting program with.



The district membership committee is primarily responsible for relationship with community organizations, the organization of new units in order to provide opportunity for youth membership growth, and youth recruitment. Cultivation of present chartered organizations is extremely important. This is done through continuous expressions of appreciation, invitations to organizational heads to visit Scouting events, and recognitions for tenure and exemplary support from organizations.

New-unit organization and unit reorganization are major responsibilities of the membership committee. All new-unit organization originates with this committee, and unit reorganization is generally done in cooperation with the commissioner staff, which has the ongoing responsibility of re-chartering units. Commissioners are accountable for keeping units alive and healthy, but they often need the support of the membership committee to help get units reorganized. Instead of a planning body, the district membership committee is an action group. They conduct the events and activities that will reach out to serve more youth.

Five Sources of Membership Growth

- Growth from new units (responsibility of the membership committee)
- Growth from youth recruitment and enrollments (responsibility of the membership committee)
- Growth from program transition (Webelos Scout to Boy Scout, and Boy Scout to Venturer) (joint responsibility of membership committee and commissioner staff)
- Growth from increasing retention or tenure through more youth re-registered at unit charter renewal (responsibility of the commissioner staff)

Membership Resources

- [New Unit Resource Kits](#). Each of these kits contains step-by-step instructions and resource materials for organizing a new unit with a specific organization.
- [Letters of Endorsement](#). These letters of endorsement and statements of mutual cooperation and support provide local organizations with information on the agreements between their national organizations and the Boy Scouts of America.
- [Webelos to Scout Transition](#). There are a number of ways a pack and troop can work together to enhance the Scouting experience of their boys. To help assure maximum transition requires cooperation among the pack, troop, commissioner, and District Committee.
- [Scout Zone](#). This BSA web site provides information about the Boy Scout program to prospective members.
- [Join Cub Scouting](#). This BSA site provides information about the Cub Scout program to prospective members, including boys, parents, and organizations that may be interested in starting a pack.

District Membership Responsibilities

The chairman is responsible to the district chairman and executive. The person who fills this role must have leadership ability and the capacity to manage a team working on a variety of activities. The chairman needs to be able to motivate committee members and to inspire them to meet district membership objectives. The chairman must be a good adult recruiter.

District Membership Committee Tasks

1. Gather information
 - Work with the district executive to establish a district growth plan for new-unit and membership growth in the district.
 - Plan and conduct boy-fact surveys to find out how many boys there are of Cub Scout, Boy Scout, and Venture Scout age.
 - Analyze district membership figures on the number of Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Venturing for the past several years.
 - Find out where units of each age level are located to help decide how many units of each type will be needed and where.
 - Track membership growth throughout the current year.
 - Develop a list of all potential chartered organizations in the district.
 - Gather information about various types of community organizations, as well as individual organizations within each type.
2. Cultivate relationships with community and organizations
 - Encourage community organizations to use the Scouting program.
 - Act in close liaison with council leadership to maintain or regain Scouting access to schools.
 - Conduct district relationships conferences for heads of chartered organizations and chartered organization representatives.
 - Promote the religious emblems program with local religious institutions.
 - Share information with other district Scouting leaders about how to work more effectively with various types of organizations.
3. Help develop new units for growing membership
 - Recruit and train organizers for new units as well as those needing reorganization.
 - Help organize new packs, troops, and venture crews.
 - Conduct a plan to bring Scouting to a number of organizations.
 - Reorganize or relocate units that need a new start.
 - Make sure that new or reorganized units are under the care of a member of the commissioner staff.
4. Ensure recruiting and retention of Scouts
 - Plan and carry out district programs and campaigns for recruitment.
 - Help existing units develop a plan of year-round recruiting and a willingness to look for new members.
 - Develop and provide membership materials and training to units.
 - Keep a list of all Scouting units that have not added new or lost members during the past year. Help coach units that show no growth or lost members.
5. Promote and market scouting
 - Promote scouting through communications and media channels.
 - Market scouting to local schools, communities and organizations.
 - Promote scouting to all cultural and races in community.
 - Support scouting to low income and single parents in community.

