



# INVITE NEW FRIENDS

JOIN SCOUTING'S  
ADVENTURE



Dear Skipper:

The Sea Scout program has been providing young men and women in our communities the fun and adventure they seek. Millions have entered into every walk of life, bringing the values of the Boy Scouts of America into our country's moral fiber.

As a leader, you are amongst the thousands of adults that make the Sea Scout program possible for youth. You also represent the program's best sales force. This guidebook has been created to assist leaders and families in offering a variety of quality invitations to each and every young person in our community. Our goal is to leave no stone unturned. Each and every youth should receive the message that Scouting is alive and well and available in their neighborhood. The ideas featured in this book can be done quite easily and most can be supported by the council as well as with national resources available to you.

We challenge you to use these ideas in your recruitment efforts, to use your imagination and to help spread the excitement of the Sea Scout program.

Council President

Council Commissioner

Scout Executive

# INVITATION METHODS

**THIS GUIDEBOOK HAS BEEN PUT TOGETHER AS A BASIS FOR ASSISTING SEA SCOUT SHIPS RECRUIT SEA SCOUTS. THESE ARE A FEW METHODS THAT CAN BE IMPLEMENTED IN YOUR COMMUNITY. SOME OF THE RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE FROM YOUR LOCAL BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA COUNCIL. THE MORE IDEAS USED IN YOUR RECRUITMENT, THE MORE SUCCESSFUL RESULTS YOU WILL HAVE!**



# TOP 10 METHODS

The Top 10 methods are considered to be the most important ideas for recruiting. Ships should consider doing multiple methods as there is not one method that is considered the "silver bullet" way of recruiting. We challenge you to do 7 or more methods.

## Ship Information Sheet

- This is your chance to brag about your ship and have a quick handout ready to distribute.
- Details should include meeting times and locations, ships calendar, list of adult and youth leaders' contact information and other exciting information about your program.
- These information sheets should be shared with your Charter Organization, schools, community organizations, and families in your ship so that they can be distributed to new members.



## Organizational Visit/Scheduling

- You should have a face-to-face meeting (virtual) with your chartered organization prior to the new school year. This meeting gives you the chance to thank the organization for their support and outline your ideas and requests for your program year.
- Be sure to bring pertinent information regarding your program, a "yearbook" of activities and be prepared to explain the benefits of the program. Determine how your ship can help support your charter organization.
- Bring popcorn, camp card, or other gift to show that you appreciate your charter organization. Also a good idea to take with you when you visit with the schools that allow your to recruit.

## Flyers

- Work with your District Executive to order flyers to be utilized in your recruitment events.
- Your council will let you know what information they can print on the flyer: this is typically the date/time/location of your recruitment event.
- Recruitment events should be planned within the first few weeks of school. However, you will need to find alternative ways to recruit with the current COVID challenges. If schools are still meeting in person you, could still distribute flyers if the school will allow you. Be creative!

## Wear Your Uniform/Be Visible in the Community

- This is an easy way to get exposure for your Sea Scout Ship, as the uniform/t-shirt/etc. serves as a walking billboard and conversation piece.
- Ask all Sea Scouts to wear their uniform when out for events and community activities. If your Sea Scouts are attending school, ask them to wear their uniform/t-shirts on the day of the recruitment event.
- Adult leaders should also wear their uniform/t-shirt to school, ship and other community events.
- Your ship might decide to design a t-shirt for Sea Scouts, leaders, and parents to wear on a regular basis.





## School Visits

- School visits have been a highly effective way to get youth excited about the program in the past. We know this will probably not work this year with COVID. But, what could you do if schools are meeting in person/virtually.
- Can your ship help with a school project, supplemental program, or other service for the school?
- Be sure to send thank you notes to your school administrators, principals, and teachers.

## Lawn Signs

- Post these signs at the school and other high traffic areas in your community prior to your recruitment event.
- Use council provided signs or create your own.
- Include the Sea Scout logo, date, time, and location for your recruitment event.

## Back to School Night/Community Event

- Your ship is part of the fiber of the school, community, and its families. Being present at Back to School Nights, other school and community events is an important way to raise exposure of your program.
- Have a table/booth at these events with flyers, interest sign-in sheets, way for youth/families to sign up online and other visuals/activities for youth/families to get involved.

## Picture Board/Social Media Presence

- Sometimes pictures speak louder than words, include contact information on boards that can be taken to community events or posted on community social media sites. (Facebook, Nextdoor, etc.)



# Geofencing

## What is it?

Geofencing is the practice of using global positioning to define a geographic virtual boundary. Once the virtual barrier is established, we can set up triggers that will send them a Facebook app notification/ad when the mobile device enters the specified area.

## How to set it up?

**Step 1** - Login to your council FB page

**Step 2** - Click on Events

**Step 3** - Create an Event

**Step 4** - Enter Event Information

**Step 5** - After your event is posted - BOOST your event

The BOOST cost you as little as \$1 per day!

## ADDITIONAL TIPS!

- Make sure you are using the BSA Brand guidelines
- Use a high resolution graphic for the event
- Make sure it looks professional
- You can target or geofence any location and target junior high/middle schools and high schools around that location
- Add small details – Example- Room #; specific location
- **DO NOT** change the event after it is posted, it would be like doing flyers for a school and changing the date

# JUST ASK ONE

- Just Ask One is designed to give your Sea Scouts and their families a recruitment tool to promote Scouting. What a great opportunity for youth to have their friends join them in this adventure.
- Existing youth/families can probably think of at least one other youth/family that they would like to share their experience with in like-minded activities.
- Sea Scouts should invite their friends/other youth to join them at the next meeting. This should be a personal ask!







# MORE OPPORTUNITIES

The following ideas are additional methods that the ship should consider doing! Ask every family to join in!

## Information Business Cards & Buddy Cards

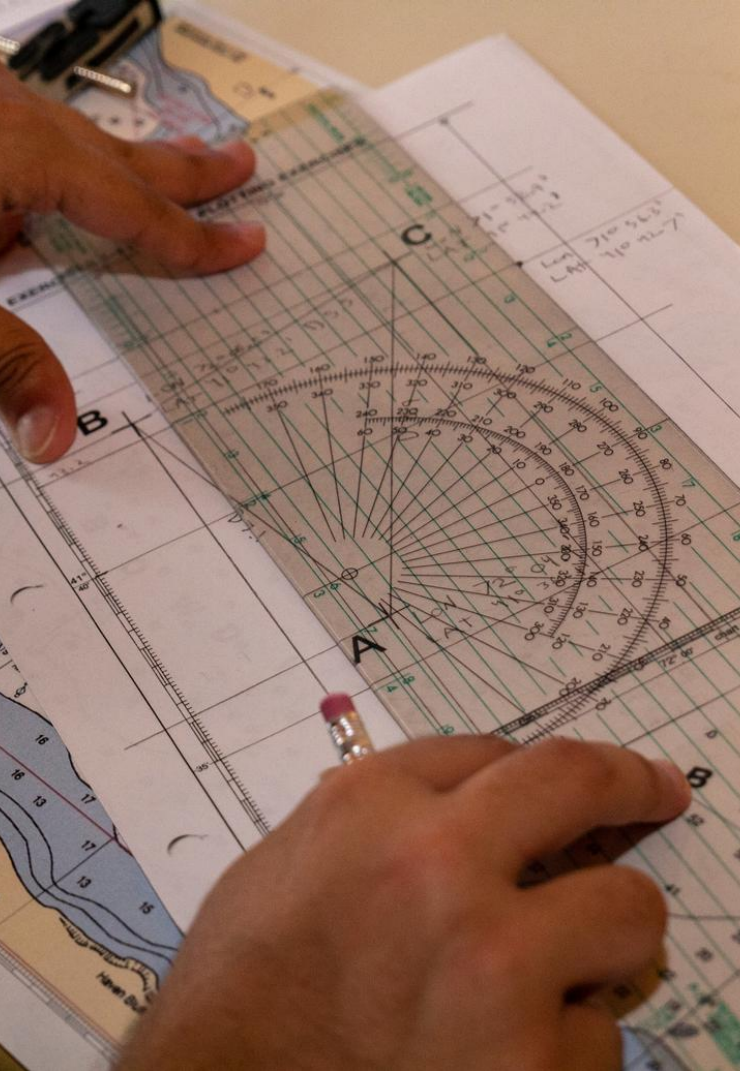
- These cards can be created by the ship for Sea Scouts to hand out to other youth. Card templates can also be found on the BSA Brand Center by visiting [Scoutingwire.org](http://Scoutingwire.org)
- Include details like date and location of meetings and leadership contact information.
- Cards can be printed from your home computer.
- Have each leader/family carry and hand out cards at all school/community functions.
- Have each Sea Scout share these cards with their friends and other youth.

## Invitation Letter/Email/Personal Phone Call

- The letter or call should be customized from each Sea Scout/family for them to send/call their friends and acquaintances.
- Include thoughts like the benefits of Sea Scouts and why you/your family is involved.
- Letters should include meeting and joining information as well as who to contact for more information.
- If you are able to meet in person, invite new youth/families to go with you to the next activity.

## Promote at Church & Other Personal Affiliations

- Families also have many other affiliations such as church and sports; these activities can be used to spread the word of Sea Scouts.
- Ask other youth/families who are involved with you and your family to join you in Sea Scouts.



## Social Media Posts

- Encourage your families to share their experience on their personal social media channels. This is a great way for other youth/families to see the FUN!
- Ask youth/families to share on community pages they are also a part of like Nextdoor

## Drive-up Signup Night

Set up in a parking lot (possibly your school) and have youth/families drive up sign-up stations

**Station 1** Welcome & QR code to fill out online registration

**Station 2** What We Do: Provide families with an information packet (calendar/leader contact/ship information sheet)

**Station 3** Youth Officer/Ship adult leader Welcome and Q&A

**Station 4** Check-out (opportunity for ship to collect dues, sell t-shirt, and remind youth/ family of 1st upcoming event/activity)

# ADDITIONAL METHODS

- Use door hangers with Scouting for Food, Popcorn, other unit fundraisers
- Unit Events
- Park Recruitment Days
- Ice Cream Socials
- Summer Experience: Launch Events
- Fishing Derby, Shooting Derby, Rocket Launching
- Penny Stuffers (local advertisement stuffers)
- National Recruitment Video
- Local Recruitment Video
- Pizza box flyers (other restaurants that are willing to throw in an advertisement)
- Local Flyer distribution (places families go to. Pizza/Ice Cream/Snow Cone Yogurt Shops etc.)
- Joining Night events at sporting areas (soccer/baseball/basketball/etc.)
- Unit self-marketing via Facebook, Snapchat, Instagram, Tik Tok, etc.
- YouTube Ads
- Calendar of Community Events: parades, service events, etc.
- Spirit Day at Chick-fil-A or other businesses
- Utilize NextDoor app
- Partnering with college/civic/business/community organizations
- Partnering with high school groups/organizations- adult education

