

What Comes First... A New Scout.... Or an Adult Leader?



You've heard the story about which came first, the chicken or the egg? Recently, I was at a Scouting event, speaking with a Cubmaster and I asked them how their fall recruitment was going for new youth. He looked at me and replied, *"Oh, we aren't recruiting any new youth this fall because we don't have any new Den Leaders."* All I can say to that is: What a missed opportunity! Fall recruitment season is the perfect time to not only engage new youth into Scouting, but more importantly, secure new adult leaders at the same time through connecting with the Scout's parents/guardians.

When my three children were in school, they participated in lots of extracurricular activities. When my wife or I took the kids to sign up for a new program, we fully expected to be asked to help and volunteer in some way. Candidly, if we weren't asked to help, we got our kids signed up, but we were all less engaged and quickly moved onto the next activity.

I have found that for Cub Scout Packs, fall recruitment season is the ideal time to request engagement from new parents. I know many Packs require that one parent/guardian from each registered family to get involved in some way. Get the commitment up front *before* you register the new youth.

Recruiting never stops.

As always, if you have any questions or comments let me know.

Kenn Miller
KMiller@BaltimoreBSA.org
(443) 573-2507