

FUN ADVENTURES.
Outdoor Experience.
FRIENDSHIP. GROWTH.

There are many ways for parents to participate in the Scouting experience!

Including Parent Feedback in Your Program's Plan, Do, and Review

For an effective review, sometimes an 'outsider' can provide a different, higher level view to those of us (Scouters) who are deep in the details of providing a great scouting adventure, and parents have a great wealth of knowledge of what their Scout enjoys.

If the youth enjoy their Scouting experience they are very likely to keep coming back. If their parents realize that the Scouting experience is beneficial to their Scout and to themselves, they are likely to encourage the child to continue participating in Scouting from year to year.

Scouters often know why youth stop attending or leave Scouting altogether, but parents always know. Maintaining communications and gathering parent feedback throughout the year builds stronger parent relationships and enables the Scouter to spot problems and identify solutions.

Parent Feedback can be a useful tool in not only establishing good practices, but also in retaining the parents' interest, so reach out to them often. Some key practices to make this work:

- Gather feedback early in the program schedule, and often. Have the Feedback PDF available on your Section website and include a link in your regular emails to parents, or print it off and hand out to parents periodically.
- Update your program based on the feedback – show parents their opinion is important and the Scout will notice this too.
- Make obtaining further feedback a regular activity. If you cannot use the 'form', use the form as a guide in discussions after the Section meeting, maybe with a group of parents.
- Cover all parents during the program, making them part of the process, this may spark the interest of potential Scouters.
- When parents see that they can assist they will want to become more involved.

