

Cub Scout Parent Survey – Winter 2013




Last Modified: 04/04/2013

Survey sent to 124 individuals and 86 families.

49 responses (40% of total respondents) received from 35 families (41% of families).

The parents of 46 scouts (44% of the scouts) responded to the survey

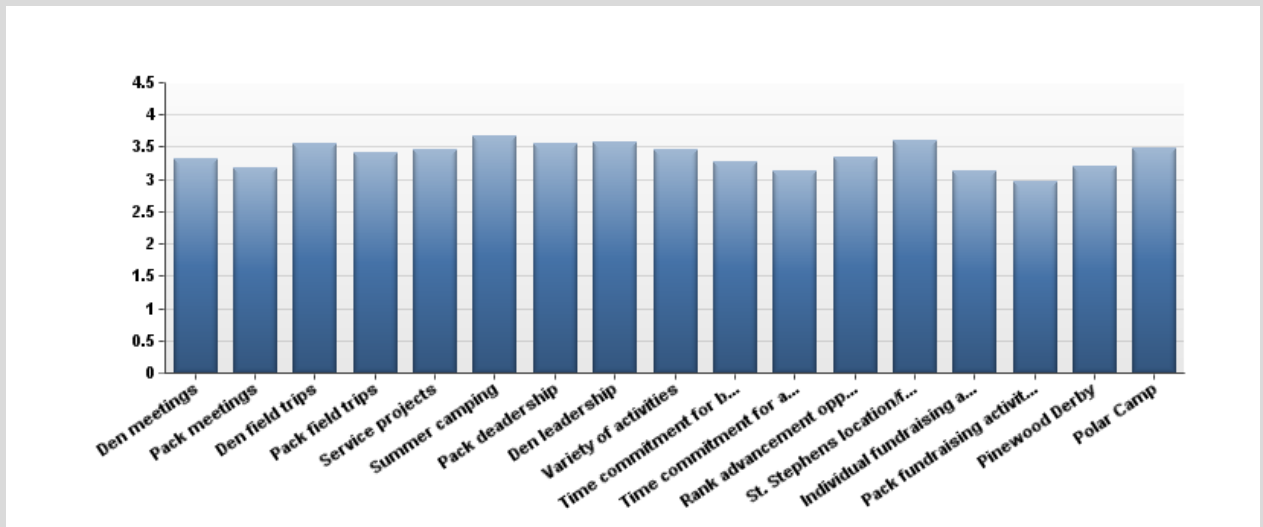
1. What school does your scout attend?

#	Answer		Response	%
1	Somerset		28	74%
2	Garlough		4	11%
3	Moreland		0	0%
4	Heritage		6	16%
5	Friendly Hills		0	0%
	Total		38	100%

2. Please tell us your son's current scout enrollment - in which dens they are current members, and how many overall years of scouting each child has had - counting the current year as the first year. (For each cub scout in your family, please make one selection for his current den, and another selection for how many years he has been involved in scouts, including the current year).

#	Question	My son is a member of this den	First year scout	2nd year scout	3rd year scout	4th year scout	5th year scout	Total Responses
1	Lions (kindergarten)	9	7	0	0	0	0	16
2	Tigers (1st grade)	6	2	7	0	0	0	15
3	Wolves (2nd grade)	8	4	5	3	0	0	20
4	Bears (3rd grade)	5	1	3	2	1	0	12
5	Webelos I (4th grade)	7	1	2	0	5	2	17
6	Webelos II (5th grade)	4	1	0	0	1	5	11

3. Please indicate how satisfied you are with the following



components of cub scouts?

#	Question	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Total Responses	Mean
1	Den meetings	0	2	20	14	36	3.33
2	Pack meetings	0	4	23	11	38	3.18
3	Den field trips	0	0	15	19	34	3.56
4	Pack field trips	0	2	11	13	26	3.42
5	Service projects	0	0	17	15	32	3.47
6	Summer camping	0	0	8	17	25	3.68
7	Pack leadership	0	2	12	23	37	3.57
8	Den leadership	0	1	13	22	36	3.58
9	Variety of activities	0	0	20	17	37	3.46
10	Time commitment for boys	1	1	22	13	37	3.27
11	Time commitment for adults	1	2	23	9	35	3.14
12	Rank advancement opportunities	0	2	19	14	35	3.34
13	St. Stephens location/facilities	0	0	15	23	38	3.61
14	Individual fundraising activities (wreaths, popcorns, etc.)	0	6	19	11	36	3.14
15	Pack fundraising activities (pancake breakfast, friends of scouting campaign)	2	6	19	9	36	2.97
16	Pinewood Derby	1	3	18	12	34	3.21
17	Polar Camp	0	3	9	17	29	3.48

4. Please add any comments below to further describe your responses in the previous question.

Text Response

I'm not sure how parents learn about all the different rank advancement opportunities, or how important this is. Perhaps more information about this would be helpful.

Too much fundraising. I would rather just pay what my son needs to pay to participate

We've participated in the pancake breakfast the last two years... It feels like a lot of work for little benefit.

Would have liked it if there had been some kind of 1.5 hour workshop to help fathers who have no carpentry skills or woodworking tools to get started on the derby car. car

We haven't been in long enough to participate in some of the things listed.

There seems to be alot of activities around fundraising. It would be helpful if there were fewer but larger opporutnities.


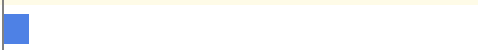
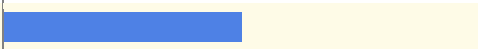

TO many fundraising events. I would much rather pay a monthly fee than be constantly asked to donate.

i was disappointed in the handling of the the pinewood derby when the gave trophies out to thekids without being sure oftheresults and thentaking the trophiesback , my son was upset because he was told he won and the taken ack

5. What is your opinion of the time required to be in cub scouts?

#	Answer		Response	%
1	Cub Scout involvement is too time-consuming		6	16%
2	It's just about the right amount of time		31	82%
3	We would like to dedicate more time to cub scouts		1	3%
	Total		38	100%

6. Please indicate your level of satisfaction with the pack's communication to you about scout information

#	Answer		Response	%
1	Very Dissatisfied		1	3%
2	Dissatisfied		2	5%
3	Satisfied		19	50%
4	Very Satisfied		16	42%
	Total		38	100%

7. Please provide details about your satisfaction with scout communication. Please tell us what works well and what could be improved.

Text Response

John Chandler is an outstanding communicator.

Too many den meetings are prescheduled for dens, if den leaders want more then once a month it should be their discretion

I think here is room for improvement for getting new parents up to speed on the advancement opportunities for their son..how to earn patches, belt loops etc ... I still feel like I don't know all the details.

Good info sent in frequent emails

Would like a website, but I'm working on that!

Scouting involves significant time commitment. It seems that there is a core group that does most of the work.

In general the cub scout rank advancement is very complex. Lots of fun activities but the world has so many things it throws at parents and kids these days that it is tough to keep track. The Tigers were lucky because Mike Orme did a very good job of tracking all this and Jennifer was spot on with the calendar. John's weekly communication was great. So the real issue is complexity around the BSA itself with younger kids. Once the boys can read and track their own advancement I would expect this to go away somewhat... but not sure. We are only tigers.

Very detailed and timely information greatly appreciated

Area of improvement could be sending emails out sooner than the day before a den meeting...otherwise I think they're doing a great job!

no one tells how things work or go, they all just expect you to know? We need more explanation & instruction on how things "go".

E-mails from scout master are appreciated, but they can be too long and too hard to extract action items from. It would be good to have a website with an online calendar for quick reference rather than having to search through e-mails.

8. What is your son's favorite thing about cub scouts?

Text Response

Time with his friends and his parents, camping, field trips, and learning new things.

Camping

Den meetings, outdoor activities, service projects

camps and camping

The social interaction with his den.

Pinewood derby

building friendships

differant learning activities associated with rank advancement

Pinewood - camp - field trips.

running around with the other boys at the Den meetings

Earning the Whittling card He really wants to go camping with his dad.

Polar Camp & Summer Camp

Spending time with friends

Friends

Getting to see his friends. Social aspect.

Camping

camp akela, ice cream social, halloween event

activities with his peers.

Friends

camping

Camping

Uniform, being with friends, activities

Running crazy with the other boys. It sort of acts like another play date.

Camping

We haven't been able to attend camp, but enjoys popcorn sales and derby race.

Being with the boys

Belonging to a great group of boys.

Camping, pinewood derby

Camping

Meeting activities

Getting outdoors and related activities

Activity meeting

activities

Interacting with boys his age, both from school and those he did not know previously.

time with friends

The camps

Engaging in activities with his friends

9. What is your favorite thing about cub scouts?

Text Response

I like to spend time with my son, and I enjoy the range of opportunities scouting provides, particularly camping, polar camp, service activities, and outdoor activities.

Guided camping (I'm not a big camper myself)

time commitment of leaders, advancement ceremonies, opportunities for outdoor activities

individual time with each son

The activities. The kids partake in activities that they may not necessarily do with their parents.

Spending time with my son and his friends

the father/son activities

opportunities to do service projects, e.g., collecting food, Fort Snelling wreath clean up, etc.

I appreciate the focus on God, the family and others. I was very impressed a few years ago when the scouts were not willing to bend to social issue that they felt they could not condone. I know the scouts took a hit when they took this stand and lost funding over it.

Not much.

Scout values

Time with son individually

My son enjoys it. Healthy program.

Seeing him work hard to accomplish various projects and awards.

sense of community, meeting other adults

friends

The way they do not waiver on there policies regarding religion and other topics.

Kids service projects

Values, activities

Ability to do something community. We really liked the food drive and fort snelling and my son liked sharing that experience with the other scouts - so it was fun task-oriented and they had time to pal around as well. More activities like this but this takes planning.... it is an art not a science.

Provides my son w/so many opportunities

Having my son learn about respect and the areas of helping/donating time, etc.

Positive learning for the boys

Meeting other families.

The boys do things that they would not do otherwise. They also learn key life skills like discipline and following through.

Watching the boys learn and grow.

My son is learning about human values like integrity, team work, to help others, etc.

Watching the boys progress in skill





Work with scout on project, activities

my son being able to spend time with other kids

Learning to get along with others and the camps

Exposes children to new things and experiences

10. How involved has your son been in scouts this year?

#	Answer		Response	%
1	Not involved - he has officially left scouting		0	0%
2	Not very involved, but still part of scouting		1	3%
3	Somewhat involved, he attends some den and pack meetings		5	13%
4	Very involved - he attends most den and pack meetings and events		20	53%
5	He rarely misses any scout related activities and events		12	32%
	Total		38	100%

11. If your son has left scouting or is not very involved can you please share with us your reasons? (please select all that apply)

#	Answer		Response	%
1	Too much time required		2	50%
2	Too expensive		0	0%
3	Dissatisfied with the den meetings		0	0%
4	Dissatisfied with the pack meetings		0	0%
5	Competes with other family activities		3	75%
6	Don't agree with the Northern States Council local policy on inclusiveness		0	0%
7	Don't agree with the national scout organization not having a policy on inclusiveness		0	0%
8	Excludes daughters/sisters		0	0%
9	Don't enjoy camping		0	0%
11	Personality conflict with other members		0	0%

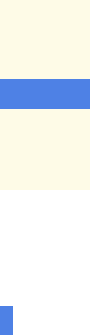
12. Please tell us if there are any changes that could be made to increase your own or your son's interest and involvement in scouting.



Text Response

More outdoor activities, less chatter. :-)

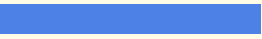









Send out explanations of how events, activities are handled...how new people are supposed to be involved, etc

13. An excerpt from the Northern Star Council's Inclusivity policy is shared below. What influence do you think the Inclusivity Policy has for most families choosing to become involved in scouts? (At of this date, the local scout office has an Inclusivity Policy and the national office does not). The Northern Star Council's Practices with Regard to Inclusive Leadership Selection Scouting's commitment to its members, leaders, employees and the community with regard to ethnicity, religion, gender, disability, age and/or sexual orientation. Northern Star Council seeks to serve all children and families within our geographic area to fulfill our mission of positive youth development and to enhance the quality of life in our communities, in partnership with a diverse and talented pool of adult volunteers. For nearly 100 years Scouting has brought together individuals and organizations of widely different backgrounds and beliefs on behalf of young people. Northern Star Council continues this tradition on the eve of our second century, in its inclusive leadership selection practices. Northern Star Council and Scouting are respectful of human differences and a diversity of beliefs. Among other values, Scouting teaches respect for the beliefs and rights of others through adherence to its Oath and Law.

#	Answer		Response	%
1	Scout membership is not influenced by a policy on inclusiveness		7	19%
2	If there is an impact on membership, it is likely that we lose members who disagree with the local		1	3%

	policy			
3	If there is an impact on membership, it is likely that we lose members who disagree with the national policy		19	51%
4	There are probably an equal number of families on either side of this issue, and thus membership is influenced in both directions		10	27%
	Total		37	100%

14. Which of the following summertime activities would most interest your scout?

#	Answer		Response	%
1	Fishing		21	55%
2	Backyard Camping/Campfire		26	68%
3	Ice cream social		9	24%
4	Rank Advancement Activities		11	29%
5	Service project for St.Stephens		6	16%
6	Twins Game		18	47%
7	Other		2	5%
8	None - we are not likely to participate in summer activities		1	3%
9	Tiger Den Day Camp		8	21%
10	Webelos Adventure Days Day Camp		13	34%

Other






Biking







roasting hot dogs



15. When should we schedule summer activities?

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Weekends only	1	3%
2	Weeknights only - rotate nights	3	8%
3	Weeknights only - Tuesdays	5	14%
4	Weekends and weeknights mixed	19	51%
5	No preference	9	24%
	Total	37	100%

16. Cub Scouts is a volunteer driven organization. Are you willing to help by organizing 1 or more of the following activities or taking on any of these positions? Please check all of the positions you may be interested in doing, and we will contact you. (Note: for this question only, we will generate a list of names affiliated with each response so that we may contact you).

#	Answer		Response	%
1	Fundraising - Give Back Wednesday Coordinator (1 position, Mar - May)		1	10%
2	Veterans Day Service Project Coordinator (1 position, Oct - Nov)		1	10%
3	Scout Sunday Service Project Coordinator (1 position, Jan - Feb)		1	10%
4	Fort Snelling Veterans Cemetery Service Project Coordinator (1 position, Jan - Feb)		2	20%
5	Riverside Veterans Cemetery Service Project Coordinator (1 position, Apr - May)		0	0%
6	Fall Youth Recruitment Organizer Co-Chair (2)		1	10%

	positions, Aug - Sept, + attend summer training)			
7	Fall Youth Recruitment Helper (4 positions, 1 Sept event)		1	10%
8	Fall Meet & Greet Organizer - Somerset (1 position, Aug)		1	10%
9	Fall Meet & Greet Helper - Somerset (1 position, Aug)		2	20%
10	Fall Meet & Greet Organizer - Garlough (1 position, Aug)		0	0%
11	Fall Meet & Greet Organizer - Garlough (1 position, Aug)		0	0%
12	Cubmaster (1 position, year round)		1	10%
13	Pinewood Derby Co-chair (2 positions, Dec - Mar)		1	10%
14	Pinewood Derby Committee (4 positions, Dec - Mar)		2	20%
15	Summertime Activity Chair (1 position, May - June)		0	0%
16	Summertime Activity Chair (1 position, June -		0	0%

17	July) Summertime Activity Chair (1 position, July - August)		1	10%
18	I am interested in many positions. Please contact me to discuss what is most needed.		2	20%

17. This is the last question. Please tell us any additional information you would like us to have about cub scouts or this survey.

Text Response

The recruiting is a little aggressive and isn't always a good thing since it makes fun events a lot more challenging to conduct.

Our family has enjoyed being part of the scouting family.

So far we are really enjoying scouting. Summers may be harder for participation as we do a lot of RV camping and traveling.

My son just crossed over to 248, I have been involved for the past 7 years. Both sons were with 37. Moving on full time to the troop. Will do anything I can at the Troop to support Pack 37. The more we support each other (troop and pack) the more successful our programs will be IMO. R Brent Olmstead ASM Troop 248

The local organization performance reflects the dedication of the community. Work life balance, the limited attention span of young boys and the complexity of the scouting handbook are factors that influence what we juggle. The key is to keep a good and flexible attitude with the younger less disciplined boys and strive to do our best. If we expect it to run like clockwork we are in trouble. So as a community we are doing pretty darned good. Hopefully that continues and matures!

n/a

We might have checked a few other volunteer things, but we don't know what it entails so we didn't.

Thanks for the opportunity to be part of this wonderful program!

I commend the local office for the inclusivity policy. I have serious concerns about the national policy and am proud to be a part of a local community that has the courage to stand up to the national office. Thank you, Northern Star Council, for being leaders on this issue.

They are doing a great job. My son now has crossed over and loves it.