



TRAIL LIFE USA®

10 WAYS TO KEEP BOYS INVOLVED

1. Provide "hands on" learning activities--boys learn by doing, not just seeing or hearing--and especially not sitting.
2. Involve others (team concept)--experiencing fun with friends is why they come.
3. Allow them to make activity decisions--if it's their idea, they'll want to do it!
4. Encourage accountability to team (patrol)--pulling together motivates more than pushing alone.
5. Incorporate repetition (announcements, motto, knots)--boys never learn the first time they hear/see something.
6. Minimize "dead time"--avoid the "classroom lecture", sit-still-and-listen type of meetings.
7. Recognize accomplishments—being acknowledged for reaching a goal or demonstrating leadership or good character spurs them to do more of the same.
8. Offer something to look forward to--plan for a future outing; cast a vision and show them what it will take to get there.
9. Make it deep and lasting. Filling time never makes up for purpose. Show them how what they are doing makes a difference. Boys value you genuinely being interested in them and what they are doing.
10. Establish consistency and routine (same time and place once a week) to build habits. If they had fun with friends, they will come back!