

Bring a Friend

RED COAT TRAIL Leadership



The Adventure:

As a Troop, host a Bring-a-Friend Night to show your friends how awesome Scouting is! Invite friends from school and your neighbourhood to a meeting so they can experience the adventures you take part in every week.

Plan:

- Who do you want to invite to the Bring-a-Friend Night? Think of at least three friends that you would like to invite. How will you get invitations to them?
- When will you host this Bring-a-Friend Night? Is there an evening that works best for everyone in the Troop?
- What adventures will you plan for the Bring-a-Friend Night? What kinds of activities would your friends enjoy who aren't familiar with Scouting?
- Who will be leading the evening's meeting? Will one Patrol lead the activities, or will the Patrol Leaders? Does everyone understand their roles?
- What supplies will you need?
- What kind of information do you want to send home with your friends after the Bring-a-Friend Night? What do they need to know in order to register with your Troop?
- What can you do to make your friends feel welcome and included?

Do:

- Invite your friends to the Bring-a-Friend event. Make sure you are clear when communicating the date, time and location of your meeting.
- Create an information package for your friends and their parents to take home so they can easily register with your Troop and take part in all of the adventures you have planned. Consider including:
 - Registration forms (participant and Volunteer) and instructions for online registration
 - A list of upcoming events and camps your Section has planned
 - Contact information for the Group (the Group Commissioner or a Contact Scouter)
 - Program information (for example, a **brochure** for your Section)
 - Invitation to attend another free meeting
- Host the Bring-a-Friend event with your Troop. Keep in mind that there will be a lot of new faces at this meeting, so make an extra effort to be welcoming to everyone.
- Greet your friends at the door and make them feel welcome from the moment they walk into your meeting. Invite them into the meeting space and talk to them about what they can expect over the course of the evening. Introduce them to the other members of your Troop, as well as the Scouters.
- Explain important parts of the evening to your friends. What is the significance of Opening and Closing ceremonies? Who is the Troop Leader? Who are the Patrol Leaders? Where should your friends go when the Troop Leader asks everyone to divide up into Patrols?



Bring a Friend

Review:

- What do you know now that you did not know before?
- What did you teach others on this adventure? How did you teach them?
- What did you learn about leadership?
- What would you do differently next time?
- How did you feel before, during and after the Bring-a-Friend event?
- Follow up with your friends after the meeting. What did they enjoy? Would they come back to another meeting? Do they want to join your Troop?

Safety Note:

- How many friends are coming to your Bring-a-Friend Night? Will your Scouters need a helping hand from other adults?
- What safety equipment should you have on hand for your adventure?

Online Resources:

- [Bring-a-friend!](#)
- [Bring-a-Friend Invitation](#)

