

Reasons for Not Joining Scouting

and some potential responses

1. **It's too expensive.** Compared to many of the youth sports programs that have limited seasons, Scouting is year-round and is comparatively less expensive, especially considering the lifelong lessons that are learned. Furthermore, Scouting gives the youth a method of paying for their own program through our annual product sales.
2. **I don't have the time.** Scouting is structured so that your commitment decreases every year as your child gains self-confidence and increasing independence. But rest assured, the time you spend now one-on-one with your child will be some of the best times you will have.
3. **(S)he's in sports.** Scouting and sports are not mutually exclusive. In fact, some of our most successful scouts have had successful sports experiences as well, and it teaches them time management skills they might otherwise not receive.
4. **(S)he's not the outdoors type.** While we do a lot of our activities outdoors, you will see a gradual change in your child to get out of the house and away from the screens for a healthy experience.
5. **Meets on the wrong night.** If our meeting night is not good for you and your family, let us know, and we will help you find a nearby pack that meets on a different night.
6. **(S)he has too much schoolwork.** Just like with sports, Scouting makes a child want to be a part of the program, and they subsequently develop excellent time management skills as a result so they can take full advantage of the program while still excelling at school.
7. **Worried about sexual predators.** Each and every one of our adult leaders must complete an initial criminal background check and periodic re-checks and complete Youth Protection Training, considered one of the finest programs in all youth programs nationwide.
8. **Aren't you going bankrupt?** Our current bankruptcy proceedings are intended to protect the vital assets of the BSA so we can continue our mission of character and leadership development while we carry out our commitment to care for the former members who were mistreated in the program forty to fifty years ago.
9. **Don't like uniforms.** Most of our activities are conducted in an activity uniform, usually t-shirt and slacks. The field uniform is also used at our more organized activities. The uniform is one of the methods of scouting, as it gives the Scout identity in a world brotherhood of youth who believe in the same ideals. It also makes the pack visible as a force for good and creates a positive youth identity in the community. Finally, it shows each Scout's commitment to the aims and purposes of Scouting.
10. **Older brothers weren't scouts.** We think that when your child's older siblings see what (s)he is accomplishing, they will wish they had joined, and may actually be drawn to one of our older programs. Scouting has been producing young men and women leaders of good character for over 110 years now, and they may be drawn to it.