



Scouting has always depended on volunteer registered adult leaders, primarily parents of Scouts, to lead packs, troops, teams, crews, and ships. It is also part of Scouting's tradition that most parents who are not registered leaders pitch in from time to time to help out. To encourage involvement and more engagement of volunteers at all levels, the Boy Scouts of America has developed the National Parent Initiative.

The **National Parent Initiative** is a unique opportunity to engage more parents in Scouting, especially at the unit level. The emphasis is on capturing a parent's interest and support in becoming more involved and committed to the success of their child's Scouting experience. It will enhance youth and adult enthusiasm, recruitment, retention, achievement, and the family FUN of Scouting with a passionate commitment by all who participate.

A new unit position has been created and will officially be part of the program on September 1, 2008. The adult application will allow for registration in this position, as well as parents making their commitment on the youth application. The official launch was shared at the May 2008 National Annual Meeting.

### **Role of the ScoutParents Unit Coordinator**

All units are encouraged to appoint at least one **ScoutParents unit coordinator** who will serve as a registered member of the unit's committee or as one of its assistant unit leaders. The coordinator will complete the adult volunteer application and pay the annual \$10 registration fee. Coordinators will go through the regular adult background check like all other registered leaders. Larger units may have more than one person serving in this key position.

The **ScoutParents unit coordinator** welcomes all parents to the unit and keeps them informed by doing the following:

- 1) Assign parents to help with at least one specific task, assignment, or project annually.
- 2) Provide an orientation for all parents about how the unit works and the benefits to their family.
- 3) Keep parents updated on the unit's program and their child's involvement.

This position will help involve more adults with the unit's program, thus creating a better informed group of parents connected to their child's Scouting experience. The support and commitment of parents directly affects the quality of the unit's program, and provides a more meaningful experience for everyone, especially the Scouts!

Fast start training will be available for all ScoutParents unit coordinators. Access the training by going to the official ScoutParents Web site, [www.scoutparents.org](http://www.scoutparents.org); the national Web site, [www.scouting.org](http://www.scouting.org); or the online learning site, [www.olc.scouting.org](http://www.olc.scouting.org). This training will assist them in understanding their position and with learning how to work closer with the parents in their unit.

When the new ScoutParents unit coordinator is officially registered, they will receive an e-mail from the National Council welcoming them to the program and encouraging them to go to the ScoutParents Web site for more details and support.

Each registered ScoutParents unit coordinator will be encouraged to create a MyScouting account, giving them access to other resources to support their efforts. This access will also give them the ability to print a member roster of the parents in their unit who are active ScoutParents.