SAC Myth Buster: Myth – Boys are not interested in Scouting or once they join the drop out quicker than they once did.

FACT: While youth of today have many more options to fill their time, there are some tested ways to keep Scouts active. The following was taken from Bryan's Blog, Bryan Wendell, Senior Editor of Scouting Magazine: So let's explore both aspects by presenting six problems and your time-tested solutions.

PROBLEM 1: Sports and other after-school activities get in the way
SOLUTION: Be accommodating - "As a Scoutmaster, I have always encouraged balance. Scouting can work with/around band, orchestra, sports and other activities. We're still around after the season is over!" (*Ron S.*)

PROBLEM 2: Your unit's program has gotten stale
SOLUTION: Don't do the same thing year after year - "[You need] a program that is boy-led and is dynamic with lots of variety and challenges. Doing a biking trip every summer is still okay, but go somewhere different each time. Don't allow the program to become stale. If the program is strong, boys will want to do it." (*Janet J.*)

PROBLEM 3: Lack of commitment from parents
SOLUTION: Get Mom and Dad invested from the start - "I see so many [Scouts] lose interest when their parents aren't involved. My husband and I tell new parents that the success of their boy depends on them. When they see how much good the program is doing and the development of fine young men, they are more likely to get behind their boy and help them through the rough patches. When they make Scouts a priority then they succeed." (*Tricia B.*)

PROBLEM 4: Poor fit between the Scout and his unit.
SOLUTION: Help him find another pack or troop - "Leaders need to humble themselves, and if a family or boy need a change or the night is not a good fit, let them know about other troops or packs that might work out better. The important thing is that you are here for Scouting. " (*Eric T.*)

PROBLEM 5: Scouting is too expensive
SOLUTION: Fill your year with money-earning projects and low-cost activities - "The best way to keep kids is have a fun, cheap program." (*Kay E.*)

PROBLEM 6: It's hard to reach today's kids
SOLUTION: Get your leaders trained - "Training, training, training to empower our committee members, adult leaders, and everyone so they have the tools and resources to go to." (*Kim S.*)
"Better training, more continuing education, cross-pollination of best practices are all ways to combat this." (*Skip T.*)

Share your voice! To help your message or idea get heard, please contact the Council Service Center at 540-662-2551 and speak with either Stuart Williams or Mark Pennington. You may also contact Mike Spory, VP of Program; Chip Bennett, Council Commissioner. Always feel free to express your concerns, or send in your myth question directly to me, Wilborn Roberson, Council President.