

“Just Parents”

We're not perfect, we are not experts.

We're your next door neighbors; we are just parents

Like you. We don't have any more spare time or energy than you do. We all work full time and juggle our families and our schedules and try to keep it all together as best we can. The only difference between us is that we believe in what Boy Scouting has to offer. So much so, that we contribute our time, our miles, and our talents to help our sons and your sons active in Scouting.

We are required to take 13 to 20 hours of training the first year, as well as attend Roundtable meetings every; month, so that we can meet our greatest challenge-providing a variety of programs that meet the needs and interests of very individual boys. We complete permission forms, budgets, and registrations, and fill our homes with boxes of paperwork that you will never see.

We try to involve parents who want us to understand that they don't have the time to drive on outings or help at meetings. We rejoice at the generosity of other's. Sometimes we find ourselves going in too many directions. We run out of steam. We have memory lapses. Communication lines break down. Time slips by. But that doesn't mean that we don't care.

So many evenings we spend on the phone, seeking advice and support from other leaders when disappointed or problems occur. “How do I keep my boys attention?” “What are your ideas for the ceremony?” Our dining tables are covered with bits of rope, menus, tour permits, and spreadsheets for each and every boy in our den. A couple of them won't show up, and don't think to call and let us know.

Sometimes we feel unappreciated. Yet, these boys fill us with pride at their determination and accomplishments. Their smiles light up a room, and when they say “Thank you” it makes it all worth it. We help these boys build relationships. Some struggle more than others do. The Scout Oath and Law encourage them to be trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, and more. And sometimes we too must learn these lessons over and over again with the boys. But we are willing to keep learning.

Please be patient if we appear distracted or frustrated or overwhelmed at times. Forgive us if we are not the kind of Cub Scout Leader you would be if you had the time. Instead, provide us with encouragement or offer you help. Keep us in your thoughts and prayers. We are, after all, only mentors...role models...leaders. Volunteers who have taken an oath to give these boys, your boys, the most precious gift we have to offer – the gift of time.

