* Welcome
  + Thanks everyone for coming
  + (Introduce all unit leaders)
  + By coming here tonight, you’ve embarked on a wonderful adventure
  + Tonight, we’re giving you a brief introduction to what we do, how we do it, and why we do it - if you have questions just shout them out as we go
* What do we do in Scouts BSA?
  + We do approx 3 meetings a month during the school year
    - It is not like school, we focus on experiential learning, hands-on stuff
    - About half is an activity, the other half is fun
    - Range from launching rockets, to a hike, to learning about how to fold and raise a flag, to a community service project
  + We also have a robust outdoor activity program
    - Tent camping and overnighters at places like Hammonasset State Park, the Appalachian Trail, and Sequassen.
    - It is a very effective way of getting youth together face-to-face and…
    - To teach children to respect and appreciate nature
    - To teach youth resilience, teamwork, and problem-solving.
    - We offer a monthly campout
  + Summer Camp
    - We like to call it the “Big Show”
    - It’s the most important activity we do all year and the most worthwhile
    - It’s one week out in the woods with the troop where scouts enjoy hiking, campfires, kayaking, climbing, singing camp songs, etc.
    - Robert Baden Powell, the founder of scouting, said that he would trade one week in the woods for 6 months of theoretical teaching in the classroom
    - They really grow and learn a lot about themselves at camp
* How do we do it?
  + It’s important to note that Scouts BSA is scout-led meaning they decide what the troop does, they lead the activities, and they teach and mentor one another.
  + They get organized into units of 6-10 scouts called patrols and are expected to work together as a team.
  + They have an annual planning meeting in which they decide on the program for the entire year and a monthly planning meeting in which they plan specifics, make assignments, and ensure they are ready for upcoming activities.
  + Adults are still critical to running the troop.
    - In fact, the whole organization is run by volunteers. It is a highly satisfying and meaningful way to serve the community. However, the adults provide logistical and administrative support, they are NOT the leaders of the troop.
  + Methods of Scouting (3 min)
    - First thing you should know about our methods is that Robert Baden-Powell said that Scouts should be a “jolly game.” So, job one is to have fun. That is the magic of Scouting. To our children, it feels like play, but in actuality, they are learning critical skills and developing important values/character as people.
    - Patrols learn to work as a team, resolve conflict, and conduct group planning and decision-making
    - Outdoors - intent is to get them out of their comfort zone and challenge them, but it quickly becomes every scout’s favorite part of scouting and instills an appreciation of nature
    - Advancement - set of difficult but imminently achievable set of task that teach important life lessons and skills
  + Safety
    - Youth Safety is our #1 job
    - We have a world class youth protection program
      * The foundational principles are no one-on-one contact, which means there are always two adult at all times
    - We all go through Safeguarding Youth Training every year
  + Fundraiser Plug (2 min)
    - In Scouts BSA, troops fund their own program
    - So, there will be a point during the year where we will have a fundraiser and ALL are required to participate
    - It’s not hard, people literally throw money at these kids in uniforms
* Why we do it
  + Unlike many other youth activities, the objective of Scouting is not to get good at a specific skill like playing the piano, shooting a basketball, or debating and it’s not pure entertainment like seeing a movie or hanging out with friends or going to a theme park. The mission of BSA is to “prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.” It is fun, but we’re not here for fun. We’re here to prepare kids for life. That means…
  + Character development - moral strength and values
  + Citizenship - duty to family, community, country, world
  + Fitness - physical, mental, emotional well-being
  + Everything in Scouting is laser-focused on fulfilling that mission.
* Story (EXAMPLE)
  + I would like to tell you a little about my Scouting journey with my child…
  + (Relate uplifting scouts story)
  + Here are some of the things my scout has achieved…
    - Became Senior Patrol Leader of his troop - in charge of 40 other youth
    - Built a 12,000 square foot Dog Park in Topstone Park in Redding for his Eagle project
    - Earned his year round camper award for seven straight years - meaning he camped every month of the year for those seven years
    - Earned his Eagle Scout
    - Here we are this summer in Japan at the summit of Mt Fuji
  + So he’s taller than me now by a couple of inches, he started college last year, and he’s studying to be a psychiatrist
  + But Scouting is where he
    - learned how to do hard things
    - learned to challenge himself
    - Learned to have patience in adversity
    - learned how resilient he was
    - learned to take pride in a job well done
    - learned to be a servant leader
  + And it all started in Cubs. I hope you choose to take this journey with your children too.