



Adopt-A-School Program

Promoting and recruiting young people through our school systems is getting harder. More schools are opting for “electronic only” recruitment flyers, some are prohibiting flyers and boy talks, and there are even a few school districts exploring the idea of charging scouting organizations to use their facilities.

In January of this year a new national BSA initiative called “Adopt-A-School” was created as a way to counter some of these issues by building stronger relationships between scouting units and our schools and communities. Bill Gates is the Honorary Chair/Spokesman for the program. Monmouth Council is one of the 15 pilot councils participating in this program. Freehold Township Committee Person Barbara J. McMorrow, who is a former educator and Monmouth County Freeholder, has agreed to serve as our Chairperson for this initiative. She will be working as a liaison between Council and the Schools.

The Adopt-A-School program is simple:

- Scouting units are asked to adopt one school and pledge to do **four service projects** or volunteer to help at four school events for that school over a **one-year period**.
- Units that aren't chartered by a school are asked to adopt a nearby school or one that you may already be drawing scouts from.
- Units work directly with the principal of their chosen school to determine the type of projects that need to be done. Examples: *Grounds beautification, help during school festivals/activities or clean-up after an event, book drives, food drives, “Green” effort coordinator, “Giving Tree” coordinator, literacy programs, building improvement projects.*
- Participating units will earn a “Founding Member” patch and can earn special “project patches” upon completion.
(Patches will be free for all units until Dec. 30, 2011).



How do I Adopt-A-School?

1. Fill out the Adopt-A-School Pledge Letter with the school. Submit the Letter to Monmouth Council by Sept. 30, 2011, and your unit will be entered into a drawing for a **\$50 Gift Card** to the Scout Shop. To download the letter go to: monmouthbsa.org, click on “about council” then “activities & civic service committee” and click on “Adopt-A-School.”
NOTE: If you want to participate but need additional time to finalize your pledge call Stacey at Council.
2. You will need to create an account on the Adopt-A-School Website www.bsaadoptaschool.org and log the information about your project.
3. Set a schedule for your projects, recruit volunteers, do the project.
4. If you need help finding a school to adopt contact your District Executive.
5. When you finish the project you can share your success and post information on the national BSA Adopt-A-School Website.

The hope at the heart of Adopt-a-School is to build strong, sustaining relationships with these schools creating thousands of lasting community partnerships across the U.S. Through committed volunteer efforts – from landscaping and clean-up outside the school building to Scouts’ active participation in school events throughout the year – the BSA® will become a defined presence in improving our nation’s schools.

Mail Pledge Letter to: Monmouth Council, BSA- Attn: Stacey Ehling, Adopt-A-School Program, 705 Ginesi Drive, Morganville, NJ 07751, or Fax to (732) 536-2850.

Questions contact: Stacey Ehling at Monmouth Council (732) 536-2347 ext. 34, or e-mail: Stacey.Ehling@Scouting.Org.