How-To for Scout Troops

This troop kit is designed to help you invite youth to join your troop.

What Is “Troop 491: The Adventures of the Muddy Lions”?

“Troop 491” is a movie by first-time African-American filmmaker Praheme, who was a member of a real Troop 491. The movie’s powerful story contains messages that resonate with today’s youth. It can be a tool to talk to youth from urban and inner-city environments about the adventure of Scouting and to invite them to join.

In addition to the materials offered in this folder, additional resources are available for download at bsamuddylions.org. They are customizable to allow you to create a personalized message. For example, you can invite other adults or leaders to a screening of the movie. Download the introductory letter from bsamuddylions.org. Then customize the letter with the recipient’s name and title, organization name, and address. You may wish to add specific details about your council and/or the work you do for youth in your community.

Ways to Use the “Troop 491” Folder and Movie

Every situation is different, so use “Troop 491” in the way that best fits your needs. In general:

• **Show the movie as a recruiting event.** It’s a movie night for the troop. Pop some popcorn and screen the movie for youth and adults in your unit or faith-based or community organization. It’s a great way to get people together and to get them talking about the possibilities.

• **Invite them to come.** A movie ticket–style invitation template can be found at bsamuddylions.org. The tickets can be customized and used locally. Add the date, time, and location, and ask members of the troop or organization to distribute them.
Promote Your Movie Night

Share the trailer. Share the movie trailer found on the bsamuddylions.org website on your troop’s or faith-based organization’s website or in a link via email. Show it to the boys in your meetings and encourage them to invite their friends to attend. This trailer can be streamed on or downloaded to a laptop or mobile device.

The movie trailer can also be part of a presentation to troop committee meetings, with leaders of religious organizations, or at roundtables or other community meetings. This should be in conjunction with comments about Scouting’s work and impact in the community and the commitment to make Scouting available to all youth. Personal stories about Scouts from similar backgrounds or situations are good tools to help audiences understand the impact Scouting can have on young people.

Recruiter patches. Patches are a popular giveaway for those who visit your meeting or attend a screening. There are two “Troop 491: The Adventures of the Muddy Lions” patch designs. Either design could be given to youth who attend the movie screening or to the Scout who brings a friend who joins the troop. Patches are available for order at bsamuddylions.org.

Talk about it! A companion discussion guide for “Troop 491: The Adventures of the Muddy Lions” can be found at bsamuddylions.org. This document can help adults or leaders guide a discussion of the lessons of the movie.

Make the ask. Let your visitors know they are welcome. Shake their hand and invite them to come back and visit the next meeting or campout.

More Resources Online

There are even more videos and resources online, including interviews with the filmmaker and basketball great David Lattin, who played in the National Basketball Association, for the Harlem Globetrotters, and on the 1966 Texas Western College championship basketball team portrayed in the 2006 movie “Glory Road.”