

CHARACTERISTICS, NEEDS AND INTERESTS OF BOYS

| NEEDS AND INTERESTS OF BOYS 10-17 | | |
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| AGE | NEEDS | INTERESTS |
| | - Careful supervision in the choice of games. | - Outdoor activities and adventure. |
| Ten To Thirteen (10-13) | - Opportunity to remedy postural defects. - Special provisions for adventure and discovery | - Competitive group games. - Peer group loyalties and approval. |
| | - Recognition for achievement. | - Manipulative activities. |
| | - Opportunity to live up to one's ideals and beliefs. | - Imitating elders whom they admire. |
| | - Balance between security and freedom. | |
| NEEDS AND INTERESTS OF BOYS 14-17 | | |
| Fourteen And Above (14 & above) | - Essential information on structural growth. - Physical fitness activities. - Vocational guidance in manipulative and contemplative activities. | - Competitive sports. - Physical attraction and good grooming. - Debates, manipulative and contemplative activities. |
| | - Rotation of leadership within the group. | - Greater responsibilities for group achievement. |
| | - Assurance for personal convictions. | - Values and standards of peer group. - After school social activities. |

| CHARACTERISTICS OF BOYS | | | | |
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| AGE | CHARACTERISTICS | | | |
| | PHYSICAL | MENTAL | SOCIAL | SPIRITUAL |
| Ten To Thirteen (10-13) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Good health, rarely sick. - Active and some what accident prone. - Slow growth at ages 10 and early 12. - Coordination improving. - Needs 9-10 hour sleep. - Occasionally quite, childish. - Increasing sexual curiosity. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Curious, adventure-seeking, likes to experiment. - Attention span improving. - Better skill and patience at crafts. - Has confidence and courage. - Increasing with success (and decreasing with failure). - Turned off by nagging & criticism. - Needs freedom to develop interests and abilities. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More interested in approval of peers than of parents. - Form gangs and clubs. - Looks sloppy. - Unsure with girls. Controls his emotions except during individual play. - Team play gradually replaces individual play. - Some rebellion against authority. - Feels a sense of guilt as his loyalty shifts from parents to fiends. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Beliefs in fair play. - Sensitivity to doing wrong. - Appreciation of God. - Acceptance of Golden Rule in everyday living. |

Somewhere between the ages of 12 and 15, nearly all boys undergo a fairly rapid transition from child to adolescent. Physical growth is the most obvious and dramatic. Shoulders broaden, chest expands, voice changes, sexual maturation occurs, and clothes are outgrown. Some changes are quickly over and done. This is the period when the Troop Leader can provide a real opportunity to positively influence the Scouts' beliefs and ideals.

| CHARACTERISTICS OF BOYS | | | | |
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| AGE | CHARACTERISTICS | | | |
| | PHYSICAL | MENTAL | SOCIAL | SPIRITUAL |
| Fourteen And Above (14 and above) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rapid change in physical growth. - Awkwardness. - Adult masculine features develop: facial features, beard, body contours, and sexual maturity. - Good health. - Prodigious appetite. - Inconsistency: powerful at all times, puny at other times. - Continues to need plenty of sleep: 9-10 hrs. - Tends to overdo in physical sports. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Can think and talk about abstractions. - Think more creatively and critically (and thus seem argumentative). - Intelligence measures (at age 14) at adult level. - Daydream. - Memory good. - Leadership ability itself in groups. - Begin to think about vocations. - Want to make they're own decisions. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Self-conscious, especially with adults. - Aware of the differences between the standards of his group and those of his parents. - Want to be treated like a man, but feels treated like child. - Mature less rapidly than girls the same age and don't understand why they go for older boys. - Dating begins, but not in earnest until the later years. - Maximum loyalty to his group. - Can take more responsibility and want it. - More interested in personal grooming. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Begin to develop some kind of philosophy in life. - Search for values and standards. - Concern more with the needs of others. - More interested in identifying right or wrong. |