

# How do I plan for a year of Scouting??

Time for Planning Meeting: 3 hours

People to Attend: All unit leaders, Unit Commissioner, Unit Serving Executive, along with invitation to parents (sample on USB)

Suggested Materials: Unit Planning Chart, Program Planning Guide (USB), Laptop & Projector (if possible), Council Calendar (part of this guide), Den and Pack Meeting Resource Guide for Packs, Troop Program Features I, II, and III, and Council Program Wrapper

## Key elements

- Ask families to take part in planning the unit's activities, the more personal the invite the better
- Plan fun and meaningful events that meet the needs of Scouting families
- Develop and publish your annual calendar (then share it with your families)
- Use this tool to make your annual budget to meet all of your Scouting needs for the year
- Use the budget and sales goal so that Scouting is not a financial drain on your leaders or Scouting families
- Participate in the Popcorn Sale and spend the rest of the year having fun!

## Program Planning Steps

**Step 1. Leader Succession Planning** - Work with your parents to identify and get commitments on leaders for the fall. Get them registered and have them complete the mandatory Youth Protection Training.

**Step 2. Brainstorming** - Think without limits! Use this worksheet to select a mix of activities that best represents what the youth and their parents want to do in Scouting. A balanced program should include elements from all the categories so that your Scouts can have the richest experience possible. Please feel free to encourage your group to expand on this list, it is just a good place to start. Journey to Excellence is the benchmark that every unit strives for.

**Step 3. Calendar** - After you have selected the top activities that your Scouts want to do in the upcoming year, fill in the calendar.

**Step 4. Budget** - Based on your calendar, match costs with your planned activities to determine the amount of Popcorn needed to be sold by each Scout. See USB drive or [www.wdboyce.org](http://www.wdboyce.org) for more information.

**Step 5. A Scout is Thrifty** - This is your guarantee that families will not have to pay for planned activities during the Program Year.

**Step 6. Communicate the Plan** - It is critical that you share your plan with your Scouts and their parents. Ask for help, often people are willing to take on small tasks to help with their son's development. After they have had some fun and success they will be more likely to take on larger roles in the unit. Having parents involved is also the best way to keep Scouts interested in the program so they can get the most out of Scouting values.

**Step 7. Evaluate** - Look at the most successful activities and look for new opportunities as your community and your leaders change. Please share any information you find helpful with the district or council so we can share your experience with other units to help them grow their program.