



Scouting Leaders,

Through recent survey responses from the Voice of the Scout (VOS) it is apparent that one of the main reasons why families applaud their unit's Scouting program is because their unit has a well planned and organized program calendar. To help accomplish this, we encourage units to use the Ideal Year of Scouting planning sheets. (link included at the bottom of this page) The sheets will help a unit plan and fund their Ideal Year of Scouting. While the process is simple, it may take two to three meetings to complete. Here are the basic steps:

1. **Membership** – How many of your Scouts will be returning in the fall and how many new Scouts will you pick up at School Night and other recruitment events?
2. **Leadership** – Who is confirmed and where do you have holes to fill?
3. **Brainstorming** – Include Scouts and parents. Make a list of potential activities you could do over the next 12 – 18 months.
4. **Calendar** – Take a calendar and fill in the activities you know will be happening: Camporee, Cub Family Campout, Lanoche campouts, Pinewood Derby, Blue & Gold, Court of Honor... Then take your top ideas from your brainstorming session and place those into your calendar. The idea is to have a calendar full of fun activities for your families.
5. **Budget** – Families want to know how the money for your unit is brought in and spent. Keep them in the loop. Look at the cost of your activities for the year and other unit expenses such awards, equipment, camperships, registration... Know what it will cost per Scout for a full year of program in your unit.
6. **Income** – How will you pay for all the fun? Some may come from dues, but try to keep this cost to a minimum. Use your fundraisers effectively. A well planned, well executed fundraiser can fund your programs for the entire year. Camp Cards and Popcorn sales are used by hundreds of units to fund a full year of great programs. Units should not do more than two fundraisers annually. Research shows us that parents get deterred from participating if units spend time on more than two annual fundraisers. Also, be sure to follow BSA policies for Unit Fundraising: <http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/34427.pdf>
7. **Educate your families** – Let your parents know the plans for the next 12 – 18 months. Show them the calendar and eth budget. Show them how the money raised and the dues will help pay for the fun their child will have.

Ideal Year of Scouting Planning Tools can be found here:

<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/BoyScouts/ProgramPlanningTools.aspx>