

PLAN YOUR IDEAL YEAR OF SCOUTING!

5 Simple Steps to Your Ideal Year of Scouting:



1. **Brainstorm/Plan Your Program**

The first step is getting your Scouts and parents together to come up with activity ideas. Have fun with this and look to expand your program beyond what has been done in the past. The key is to let the Scouts come up with fun ideas and make sure the parents are watching. Give the Scouts some big ideas to get them started, then use a flip chart or board to write down the ideas. Leaders can help select the best ideas and let the Scouts vote on their favorites. Next, plan an exciting activity for every month and determine the cost. Come up with a total activity cost.

2. **Assign Costs and Set a Budget**

Make sure you add all unit expenses to your total activity cost. Add all anticipated expenses to operate your unit for the year such as camping equipment, registration and chartering costs, Day Camp, advancements, Boys' Life, training, and fundraising incentives.

3. **Set Your Fundraising Goals for the Unit and Scouts**

Now divide your total budget by the number of Scouts to set your fundraising goals. The Council's annual popcorn sale is an excellent vehicle for funding your entire program. Calculate other unit fundraisers with the popcorn sale to determine your Scout goals.

4. **Communicate the Plan**

The Unit leadership must communicate to your families the current year program, what the costs will be, and what the fundraising goals will be in order to fund your Ideal Year of Scouting! Communicate your plan to parents and Scouts through meetings, newsletters, and your unit kickoff in the fall. Your kickoff may also be your Popcorn sale kickoff. Remind the Scouts of the activities they picked for the year. They will be more invested as will their parents if they have ownership in the program. Have fun with your kickoff and make sure you have unit prizes or incentives for all of your fundraisers.

5. **Execute the Plan and Raise the Money**

Now go out and raise the money and deliver the highest quality program to your Scouts!

