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SCOUT COUNCIL, BSA

2023 - 2024

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This guide and all *Ideal Year of Scouting* resources can be found online:
www.wnyscouting.org/IYOS

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Every great project starts with a **GREAT PLAN**. The same goes for Scouting. By following our proven Ideal Year of Scouting plan, you can expect to see...

- A stronger program for your Cubs at less personal cost to you
- Increased parental involvement.
- More Cubs camping.
- Better retention
- More funding with less time spent fundraising.
- A simpler, easier, and more enjoyable Scouting program

The Ideal Year of Scouting follows the BSA's Journey to Excellence program. Think of Journey to Excellence or JTE as your scorecard for Scouting success. The Journey to Excellence scorecard is located on the next page and will help you identify, quantify, track and report key factors to make the program you deliver even better for your Scouts.

Over the next few pages, we'll set you on the path to your Ideal Year of Scouting. If you have questions or get stuck along the way don't worry...we've got you covered! This guide and additional online resources are available at www.wnyscouting.org/Ideal-Year-of-Scouting.

You can also contact us at 716-891-4073 and we'll connect you with a Scouting professional who can help answer any questions and help you achieve your **Ideal Year of Scouting** goals.

Program Resources

SUPPORTING YOUR PROGRAM

One of the most critical components of the Ideal Year of Scouting is making sure you have an annual program plan. If you are still looking for a few fun events for the whole Scouting family then look no further.

Our 2023-2024 Program Planning Calendar will help you plan your unit's monthly program. For more family friendly activities be sure to visit www.wnyscouting.org/resources.

CONTACT US

WNY Scout Council #380

Buffalo Office:
2860 Genesee Street
Buffalo, NY 14225

Oakfield Office:
102 South Main Street
Oakfield, NY 14215

Mon - Fri 9am to 5pm
Phone: (716) 891-4073
Fax: (716) 891-4008

Camp Scouthaven

10784 NY-98
Freedom, NY 14065

Camp Sam Wood

7772 Camp Rd
Portageville, NY 14536



ideal year of scouting steps



1 PLAN

1. Plan: Work your way through this guide and map out the advancement, activities, camping and training you'll need for your Ideal Year of Scouting.

2 FUND



2. Fund: Determine the expenses from all the activities, advancements, camping and training your units wants to do, then decide how much fundraising your unit must do to cover those expenses.



3 GROW

3. Grow: When you have a good plan, communicate to your current and potential Scouts to engage more boys and girls in the Scouting program, along with their parents to help make it all happen.

4 TRAIN



4. Train: Plan to promote trainings to your current and new leaders; every Scout deserves a trained leader.



5 RECHARTER

5. Recharter: Re-register your unit, in October/ November of 2023 with new youth and parents added to your roster.

6 ASSESS



6. Assess: Use the Promise to Parents recommendations to measure the success of your plan and your year.



Troop _____ of _____ District
2023 Scouting's Journey to Excellence
"The BSA method for annual planning and continuous improvement"

Item	Objective	Bronze Level	Silver Level	Gold Level	Bronze Points	Silver Points	Gold Points
Planning and Budget					Total Points: 200		
#1	Planning and budget: Will have a program plan and budget that is regularly reviewed by the committee, following BSA policies related to fundraising. (In person meetings are preferred; virtual/remote meetings are acceptable.)	Will have an annual program plan and budget adopted by the troop committee.	Will achieve Bronze, plus troop will conduct planning meeting involving youth leaders for following program year.	Will achieve Silver, plus troop committee will meet at least six times during the year to review program plans and finances.	50	100	200
Membership					Total Points: 500		
#2	Building Scouts BSA: Will recruit new youth into the troop in order to grow membership that is representative of the diversity of the community.	Will have membership growth plan that includes a recruit-ment activity or will use a personalized invitation method and have current pin on beascout.org .	Will achieve Bronze, and either increase youth members by 5% or have at least 25 members.	Will achieve Silver, and either increase youth members by 10% or have at least 35 members.	50	100	200
#3	Retention: Will retain a significant percentage of youth members.	Will reregister 75% of eligible members.	Will reregister 80% of eligible members.	Will reregister 85% of eligible members.	50	100	200
#4	Webelos-to-Scout transition: Will have an effective plan to recruit Webelos Scouts into the troop.	With a pack or Webelos den, will hold two joint activities.	Will achieve Bronze, plus register two Webelos Scouts.	Will achieve Bronze, plus provide at least one den chief to a pack and register five Webelos Scouts.	25	50	100
Program					Total Points: 900		
#5	Advancement: Will achieve a high percentage of Scouts BSA members earning rank advancements.	40% of Scouts BSA members will advance one rank during the year.	50% of Scouts BSA members will advance one rank during the year.	60% of Scouts BSA members will advance one rank during the year.	50	100	200
#6	Short-term camping: Will conduct short-term or weekend campouts throughout the year.	Will conduct four short-term overnight campouts.	Will conduct seven short-term overnight campouts.	Will conduct nine short-term overnight campouts.	50	100	200
#7	Long-term camping: Will participate in a long-term camp with a majority of the troop in attendance.	The troop will participate in a long-term camp.	60% of Scouts will attend a long-term camp.	70% of Scouts will attend a long-term camp.	50	100	200
#8	Service projects: Participate in service projects, with at least one benefiting the chartered organization.	Will participate in three service projects and enter hours on Scoutbook/Internet Advancement.	Will participate in four service projects and enter hours on Scoutbook/Internet Advancement.	Will participate in five service projects and enter hours on Scoutbook/Internet Advancement.	25	50	100
#9	Patrol method: Will use the patrol method to develop youth leaders.	The troop will have patrols, and each will have a patrol leader. There will be an SPL, if more than one patrol. The PLC will meet at least four times a year.	Will achieve Bronze, plus PLC will meet at least six times. The troop will conduct patrol leader training.	Achieve Silver, plus PLC meets at least ten times. At least one Scout has attended an advanced training course, such as NYLT or Order of the Arrow Conference.	50	100	200
Volunteer Leadership					Total Points: 400		
#10	Leadership and family engagement: The troop is proactive in recruiting sufficient leaders and communicates regularly with parents.	Have at least one registered assistant Scoutmaster.	Achieve Bronze, plus the troop holds two courts of honor, where troop plans are reviewed with parents.	Achieve Bronze, plus the troop holds three courts of honor, where troop plans are reviewed with parents.	50	100	200
#11	Trained leadership: Have trained and engaged leaders at all levels. All leaders are required to have youth protection training.	Scoutmaster or an assistant Scoutmaster will have completed position-specific training.	Will achieve Bronze, plus the Scoutmaster and 60% of assistants will have completed position-specific training or, if new, will complete within three months of joining.	Will achieve Silver, plus two-thirds of active committee members will have completed position-specific training and at least one person will have attended an advanced training course involving a total of least 5 days. Will register at least one new leader.	50	100	200

- ☐ **Bronze:** Earn at least 525 points by earning points in at least 7 objectives.
- ☐ **Silver:** Earn at least 750 points by earning points in at least 8 objectives.
- ☐ **Gold:** Earn at least 1,000 points by earning points in at least 8 objectives.

Total points earned: _____

No. of objectives with points: _____

☐ *Our troop has completed online rechartering by the deadline in order to maintain continuity of our program.*

☐ *We certify that these requirements have been completed:*

Scoutmaster _____ Date _____

Committee chair _____ Date _____

Commissioner _____ Date _____

This form should be submitted to the Scout service center or your unit commissioner, as directed by your council.



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HAMBURG NY

305 Buffalo St.

716 - 646- 4327

AMHERST NY

3906 Maple Rd.

716 - 835 - 4327

PROGRAM PLANNING

PLANNING & BUDGET:

Utilizing Journey to Excellence criteria, the first step on the *Ideal Year of Scouting* path helps you develop an annual program plan, a budget to go along with that plan, and a fundraising plan to reach your program goals. The result is a well-managed, well-financed Scouting unit that spends time Scouting and not raising money.

Item	Objective	Bronze Level	Silver Level	Gold Level	Bronze Points	Silver Points	Gold Points
Planning and Budget					Total Points: 200		
#1	Planning and budget: Will have a program plan and budget that is regularly reviewed by the committee, following BSA policies related to fundraising. (In person meetings are preferred; virtual/remote meetings are acceptable.)	Will have an annual program plan and budget adopted by the troop committee.	Will achieve Bronze, plus troop will conduct planning meeting involving youth leaders for following program year.	Will achieve Silver, plus troop committee will meet at least six times during the year to review program plans and finances.	50	100	200

#1 The troop will have program plan and budget reviewed at all troop committee meetings. Troop will follow BSA policies relating to fundraising and fiscal management as found on Unit Money-Earning Application form and any other publication that the council has developed for fundraising and fiscal management. A meeting will be held with youth leaders where they are involved in developing plan for next program year. The troop's program plan should be shared with unit commissioner. Separate troops for males and females under the same chartered organization may have a shared unit committee. Committee meetings may be held remotely.

TROOP PROGRAM PLANNING CONFERENCE:

Each Patrol should elect a Patrol Leader to serve on the Patrol Leaders' Council. Once your Patrol Leaders' Council is formed, the troop should hold a Program Planning Conference. This conference should serve as the starting point for creating your annual program plan. While drafting your annual program plan it's important not to get stuck on what you have "always" done, but what you would "like to do." Steps in annual program planning include...

- **Brainstorm:** Brainstorm ideas of things you would like to do as a troop. Include a wide range of activities from campouts to service projects. At this point, everything goes on the board - no evaluation happens at this point.
- **Evaluate:** The troop committee evaluates each suggestion and goes
- back to the troop with the "approved list." Have youth vote on their First, Second and Third choices.
- **Draft the Plan:** Put together a draft of your annual program calendar. Assign potential activities for further research (cost, times, availability, etc.). Then finalize your plan including a budget and share with youth and troop families. Be sure to plan your calendar around council and district events. Review the Western New York Scout Council calendar online at www.wnyscouting.org/IYOS.

FUNDING YOUR PROGRAM:

So you've got a great program plan in place...but now how are you going to pay for it? To get started download the Troop Budget Planner at: www.wnyscouting.org/IYOS.

Four Steps for a Successful Fundraising Campaign

1. Establish an annual plan and budget using the Troop Budget Planner on the next page.
2. Determine the expenses from all activities, advancements, camping and training your unit wants to do, then decide how much popcorn your unit must sell to cover those expenses.
3. Set a troop fundraising sales goal and break down to a per-Scout-goal based on your budget.
4. Put together an exciting popcorn kickoff for your unit. Communicate sales goals and share Camp Master prize program details. Offer additional incentives for Scouts to sell. For example, sell \$100 and you get to throw a pie in your Scoutmaster's face!

For a fillable document, please visit www.wnyscouting.org/IYOS.

This calendar can be shared with potential new parents to showcase the amazing program you have planned!

Program Expenses		Annual Cost per Scout/Unit	Number of Scouts/ Adults	Total Unit Cost
Registration & Program Fee	# youth	Click Here for Current Fees		\$0.00
Registration & Program Fee	# adults	Click Here for Current Fees		
Charter Fee	Yearly flat fee	\$75.00		\$75.00
Scout Life Subscriptions	1/ household	\$12.00		\$0.00
Advancement	Ideally 100% of youth included in badges and ranks	\$18.00		\$0.00
Camping Trips	<u>Location</u>			
Camping Trip # 1				\$0.00
Camping Trip # 2				\$0.00
Camping Trip # 3				\$0.00
Camping Trip # 4				\$0.00
Camping Trip # 5				\$0.00
Camping Trip # 6				\$0.00
District Event(s)				
Fall Camporee				\$0.00
Spring Camporee				\$0.00
Winter Klondike				\$0.00
Youth Summer Camp				\$0.00
Leader Camp Fees				\$0.00
Special Activities				\$0.00
Field Trips				\$0.00
Leader Recognition				\$0.00
Adult Leader Training	(LST, OLS)			\$0.00
Youth Leader Training	SPL, PL			\$0.00
Troop equipment purchases	(Tents, stoves, lanterns, etc.)			\$0.00
Troop equipment maintenance	(Tents, stoves, lanterns, etc.)			\$0.00
Webelos Transition Recognition Items	Handbook, Troop Neckerchief, etc			\$0.00
Total Budgeted Program Expenses				\$75.00
Income				
Annual Dues	Monthly amount 10-12 times			\$0.00
Surplus from prior year				\$0.00
Other Income	Parent payment, etc.			\$0.00
Income Sub Total				\$0.00
Fundraising needed				
Optional High Adventure Opportunities				
Philmont, Sea Base, Jamboree, etc.				
Troop sponsored events				

For Electric versions visit: www.wnyscouting.org/IYOS

The final portion of the Budget Planner helps you identify your Popcorn goals. Enter the anticipated overall retail goal for your Troop's Popcorn Sale. You can determine the Scout goal by dividing this number with the number of Scouts in your Troop. Also be sure to enter the total amount of fees and additional fundraising money. Ideally your final Budget Surplus/Deficit will be near \$0. All money collected through fees and fundraising should go back into the program for that year.

MEMBERSHIP

BUILDING SCOUTING

The next step on your path to the *Ideal Year of Scouting* is recruitment. Recruiting new youth is the lifeblood of our organization and is essential to ensure the longevity of any Scout Troop. All troops should strive for an increase in Scouts BSA membership annually and hold recruitment events year-round including their own Troop Open House.

Membership					Total Points: 500		
#2	Building Scouts BSA: Will recruit new youth into the troop in order to grow membership that is representative of the diversity of the community.	Will have membership growth plan that includes a recruitment activity or will use a personalized invitation method and have current pin on beascout.org.	Will achieve Bronze and either increase youth members by % or have at least members.	Will achieve Silver, and either increase youth members by % or have at least members.	50	100	200
#3	Retention: Will retain a significant percentage of youth members.	Will reregister 75% of eligible members.	Will reregister 80% of eligible members.	Will reregister 85% of eligible members.	50	100	200

#2 The troop will have growth plan to serve diversity of our community and will conduct formal recruiting event. On December 31, 2023, the troop will have an increase in number of youth members as compared to the number registered on December 31, 2022. A membership growth plan template can be found at www.scouting.org/membership. The troop has an up-to-date pin on the "Be a Scout" website. Given current challenges, holding formal recruiting events may not be possible. Bronze may be achieved by developing and implementing a recruiting plan involving direct personal invitations for youth to join.

#3 Number of youth members on most recent charter renewal (A) divided by number of youth registered at end of prior charter year (B) plus all new youth joining (C) minus any age outs (D). Total = (A) / (B+C-D). Age-outs are youth too old to reregister as Scouts. Compare membership at 2023 reregistration with membership at 2022 reregistration. For December charter expiration, use Jan 2024 and Jan 2023 recharter.

Troop Open House

The Troop Open house allows a troop to open its doors to prospective youth. It provides a forum to show off Scouting activities and the troop's accomplishments. Hosting a Troop Open House is a five-step process that has been proven in troops throughout the nation.

- 1. Present a school rally to fifth and sixth graders. Have them complete the High Adventure Survey.**
- 2. Email or mail the parents of interested youth a personal invitation to the Troop Open House.**
- 3. Follow the invitation with a telephone call to the parents.**
- 4. Host the Troop Open House for youth and their parents.**
- 5. Organize a troop or district activity to involve new Scouts right away.**

When thinking of different recruitment ideas for your unit, create a unit information sheet to include meeting dates, times, and locations; a troop calendar; a list of leaders' contact information; other information about events and activities.

Go to www.wnyscouting.org/IYOS for Troop Open House resources including High Adventure Surveys, New Parent Surveys and more.

The Troop's Role in School Night for Scouting

School Night for Scouting is the council's annual fall recruitment drive. A School Night or Join Scouting Night will be held at every elementary school within the Western New York Scout Council. Troops should contact their feeder pack to assist with School Night. Troops should also be in attendance at School Night to welcome Scouts BSA age youth to the troop.



RETENTION BEST PRACTICES

While recruiting new youth is essential, it is just as critical to retain current Scouts. The Scouting program transforms lives and the longer a young person is in the program, the more impact it has on his life. Troops should set a goal to re-register at least 85% of eligible youth members each year. Use the following tips to strengthen your retention efforts.

- Attend Camp Scouthaven summer camp. Studies show Scouts that attend camp are more likely to stay involved in the program.
- Every new Scout should advance in rank, earning at least Tenderfoot within his first two months. An appropriate goal is to earn First Class at the end of the first year.
- Adult leadership in your troop should build an active relationship with the family of each Scout. Have conversations on a regular basis to discuss a boy's Scouting career.
- Attend a BSA High Adventure Base. The thrill of our High Adventure Bases runs far and wide across America, and nobody in the world is better at sharing those experiences than the BSA.

Membership					Total Points: 500		
#4	Webelos-to-Scout transition: Will have an effective plan to recruit Webelos Scouts into the troop.	With a pack or Webelos den, will hold two joint activities.	Will achieve Bronze, plus register two Webelos Scouts.	Will achieve Bronze, plus will provide at least one den chief to a pack and register five Webelos Scouts.	25	50	100

#4 Will hold at least two activities with a pack or Webelos den, and will recruit new Webelos Scouts into the troop. Den chiefs will be provided to one or more Cub Scout dens. Virtual gatherings are acceptable.

WEBELOS TO SCOUT TRANSITION

One of Scouting's greatest challenges is to make the next level of Scouting readily available for a young man once he meets the joining requirements. It should be the goal of every troop to make sure all Webelos Scouts have a troop to join. Here are 5 tips to help aid in your troop's Webelos to Scout transition process.

1. Select Scouts to serve as den chiefs for each Webelos and Cub Scout den.
2. Work with pack leaders to plan and conduct Webelos overnight activities.
3. Arrange for Webelos dens to visit a troop meeting.
4. Work with the Cubmaster in planning a meaningful crossover ceremony at the pack's blue and gold banquet.
5. Have youth crossover in November/December and recharter with the troop.



CREATE A SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE ON FACEBOOK



Follow these DOs and DON'Ts for your Social Media Campaign:

- DO create multiple administrators and maintain 2 deep leadership online (no private messages to youth!)
- DO post consistently, ideally at least once a week but no more than twice a day
- DO encourage interactivity through photo contests, opinion polls, trivia questions,
- DO consider having a dedicated volunteer to monitor your page frequently and promptly reply to any inquiries or ensure all posts conform to the Scout Oath and Law
- DON'T post last names of youth members or any identifying information such as birthdates, addresses or contact info
- DON'T create a page that sits dormant giving the idea that your Unit is not active
- DON'T forget to complete the About section with relevant info including the dates & times of your meetings and contact info for your New Member Coordinator
- DON'T allow private groups that cannot be monitored appropriately

BEST PRACTICES

Posts containing pictures or video get 39% more interaction than simple text posts!!

Utilize hashtags such as #AdventureOn, #ScoutsBSA, #BeAScout, #CubScout

Tag other Facebook Pages such as your School, PTA, your Scouting District and/or the Western New York Scout Council.
(ex. @WNYCBSA)

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PROGRAM

SCOUTS BSA PROGRAMMING

Another important component of the *Ideal Year of Scouting* is program. Program is the “core” of Scouting and encompasses everything from the outdoors to advancement. Exciting programs are why youth join and stay in Scouting! It’s our job as leaders to make sure there’s adventure at every turn in a Scout’s Scouting journey.



Program					Total Points:		
#5	Advancement: Will achieve a high percentage of Scouts earning rank advancements.	of couts B members will advance one rank during the year.	of couts B members will advance one rank during the year.	of couts B members will advance one rank during the year.	50	100	200

#5 Total number of Scouts advancing at least one rank (Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life, Eagle) during the calendar year (A), divided by the number of youth registered at the end of the year (B). Advancement = (A) / (B). The troop is strongly encouraged to use Scoutbook to track each individual's advancements.

ADVANCEMENT:

It’s important to regularly recognize achievements and advancement for Scouts BSA. This is what keeps youth in Scouting. Monthly submission of earned achievements is vital. As Scouts start working on various ranks, especially the Eagle rank, it is vital for the Scout’s BSA record to be up-to-date, so the processing of their rank paperwork can occur in a timely manner. Troops should plan to have at least 60% of their Scouts advance in rank each year.

Make sure every new Scout advances in rank, earning at least Tenderfoot within his first two months.

SCOUTS BSA CAMP

Camping is an integral art of the Scouting program. Whether you’re searching for fun, learning, advancement or adventure, the Western New York Scout Council has an outdoor opportunity for all Scouts. Choose your own outdoor adventure at either Camp Scouthaven or with the Birchbark Expeditions.

CAMP SCOUTHAVEN: For over 100 years Scouts of all ages have explored the outdoors and honed their Scout skills at Camp Scouthaven. Come enjoy the beautiful views of Crystal Lake and see if you can make it to the top of our Iceberg at the Waterfront! Scouthaven boasts a new State of the art Shooting Sports area as well as an advanced STEM Center. Our other excellent program areas include Ecology, Scoutcraft, and the Craft Lodge.

For more information visit:

www.wnyscouting.org/summercamp

BIRCHBARK EXPEDITIONS: A Nationally Accredited week-long, fully guided high adventure canoe experience, steeped in the rich Age of Exploration history. Operated by volunteers from the Western New York Scout Council of the BSA, the program offers three different options:

1. Adirondack Adventure: a 7-day High Adventure experience based in New York’s beautiful Adirondack Park, it operates four weeks from mid-July to mid-August

2. WNY Waterways: A local one or two-day canoeing expedition on one of the many waterways in Western New York. An ideal first opportunity to experience canoe tripping with an optional over-night stay.

3. Algonquin Adventure: also a 7-day High Adventure experience, but based in the remote Algonquin Provincial Park in Ontario (on hold until border crossing restrictions are lifted)

For more information visit: www.wnyscouting.org/birchbark

SHORT TERM CAMPING/OUTDOOR ACTIVITY

As Scouts begin to take more leadership in their unit, it is important for the adult leaders to help support and guide youth in the planning of their own outdoor experiences. A great way to do just that is to provide them with tools to help make their planning successful.

<https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/boyscouts/pdf/512-505-2016-Scout-Planning-Worksheet.pdf>

Program					Total Points: 900			
#6	Short-term camping: Will conduct short-term or weekend campouts throughout the year.	Will conduct four short term overnight campouts.	Will conduct seven short term overnight campouts.	Will conduct nine short term overnight campouts.	50	100	200	

#6 Will conduct short-term (at least one overnight) campouts throughout the year.

CONSERVATION, HIKING, RIDING, AND ADVENTURE

When a Scout excels in outdoor participation, there are awards to show for it! This program, conceived by the BSA's

Program					Total Points: 900			
#7	Long-term camping: Will participate in long-term camp with a majority of troop in attendance. (includes council-offered alternatives)	Troop will participate in a long-term camp.	60% of Scouts will attend a long-term camp.	70% of Scouts will attend a long-term camp.	50	100	200	

#7 Number of Scouts who attend any in-council or out-of-council long-term summer camp (of at least five nights), high-adventure experience, or jamboree, or serve on camp staff within the past year, divided by the Scout membership on June 30, 2022. Youth attending long-term specialty camps such as NYLT or STEM are also counted. Alternatives that spread the camping nights over multiple experiences may be included. Virtual alternatives are acceptable. These include virtual camping programs and other remote activities.

SERVICE PROJECTS

Giving back is an essential part of the Scouting experience. Nothing your Scout unit can do raises community awareness more than a service project. These good turns are some of our best marketing tools and they send the message that Scouts are here and they're making life better for others. Plan to participate in at least 3 service projects each year with your troop and make sure you record your project and hours online at www.scouting.org/jte.

Program					Total Points: 900			
#8	Service projects: Participate in service projects, with at least one benefiting the chartered organization.	Will participate in three service projects and enter hours on Scoutbook/Internet advancement.	Will participate in four service projects and enter hours on Scoutbook/Internet advancement.	Will participate in five service projects and enter hours on Scoutbook/Internet advancement.	25	50	100	

#8 The troop will participate in service projects during the year and enter them on the internet advancement website or through Scoutbook. The projects may be completed as joint projects with other organizations. At least one project must benefit the chartered organization. Service projects may include home-centered efforts providing they serve others outside the home.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Giving back is an essential part of the Scouting experience. Nothing your Scout unit can do raises more goodwill and community awareness more than a service project. These "good turns" are some of our best marketing tools and they send the message that Scouts are here and they're making life better for others.

Plan to participate in at least 5 **service projects** each year with your pack and make sure you record your project and hours online.

PAY IT FORWARD

Service is one of the most important values we have in Scouting. The Scout Oath calls on us all to "help other people at all times." The Scout Law says a Scout is Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, and Kind. These may be the most important ideals a young person takes away from their time in our program, no matter how long they stay in Scouting.

SCOUTING FOR FOOD

As Scouts, most of us know how fortunate we are to have a warm meal every night — whether around the campfire or at the kitchen table. And we know that not everyone is so lucky. That's what "Scouting for Food," the annual food

collection drive, is all about. Our council is proud to bring the "Scouting for Food" tradition back to our hometowns every November.

RECORDING SERVICE HOURS

Tracking service hours is now easier than ever! Simply enter service hours in the Activities module in Internet Advancement and Scoutbook. Any service hours recorded in Internet Advancement now feed directly into Journey To Excellence Ever better - units will no longer need to record their hours in the Good Turn For America platform.

PATROL METHOD

Program					Total Points: 900		
#9	Patrol method: Will use the patrol method to develop youth leaders.	The troop will have patrols, and each will have a patrol leader. There will be an SPL, if more than one patrol. The PLC will meet at least four times a year.	Will achieve Bronze, plus PLC will meet at least six times. The troop will conduct patrol leader training.	Will achieve Silver, plus PLC will meet at least ten times. At least one Scout will have attended an advanced training course, like NYLT or Order of the Arrow Conference.	50	100	200

#9 The troop is separated into patrols and each patrol has an elected patrol leader. If the troop has more than one patrol, there is an elected senior patrol leader. If the troop has more than one patrol, the PLC will meet at least four times each year. The troop will hold patrol leader training each year, and youth will have the opportunity to participate in advanced training. PLC meetings may be held remotely.

Patrols are the building blocks of a Scout troop. A patrol is a small group of Scouts who are similar in age, development, and interests. Working together as a team, patrol members share the responsibility for the patrol's success. They gain confidence by serving in positions of patrol leadership.

The patrol leaders are elected by their patrols to represent them at the Patrol Leaders' Council (PLC) meetings.

The PLC meets monthly to fine-tune the plans for the upcoming month. The PLC also helps facilitate the annual Troop Program Planning Conference.

Download Troop Program Planning Conference resources at: www.wnyscouting.org/IYOS

SAFETY IS OUR TOP PRIORITY

The BSA is committed to providing a safe and secure environment for our youth members. Youth protection requires sustained vigilance, and we work every day to protect children through mandatory policies and procedures at every level

of our organization. We are also committed to continuous improvement in our approach to youth protection.

Our policies, procedures, and training have evolved to learn from the past while also borrowing from best practices developed by leading experts in this field.

Today, the youth protection practices of the Boy Scouts of America are the gold standard among youth-serving organizations.

BSA YOUTH PROTECTION SAFEGUARDS

- **Mandatory Youth Protection Training**
- **Mandatory Background Checks**
- **Banned One-On-One Interactions**
- **Mandatory Law Enforcement Reporting**
- **Volunteer Screening Database**

These safeguards are key parts of our multilayered approach to help keep kids safe. These measures were created by respected experts in the fields of child safety, law enforcement, and child psychology, and are among the strongest safeguards found in any youth-serving organization.

It is critical that every adult in our program – whether they are a uniformed leader or a parent of a Scout – knows and follows BSA's Youth Protection policies.

YOUTH PROTECTION BEGINS WITH YOU!

To complete Youth Protection Training:

1. Go to My.Scouting.org
2. If a new user, create an account or Login
3. Click Menu > My Dashboard
4. Find the My Training page
5. Complete the course and print your certificate



WHAT IS SCOUTBOOK?

Scoutbook is a user friendly app developed to help to simplify Scouting by making advancement tools, record keeping, and tracking a Scouts progress accessible at your fingertips!

The best part? **It is entirely FREE for all users!**

FOR LEADERS

Scoutbook provides access to valuable tools and resources that will help with the day-to-day management of a unit, giving every leader more of what they need most: TIME!

FOR PARENTS

With hectic family schedules, staying informed and connected with what your Scout is doing is critical for any parent on-the-go.

FOR SCOUTS

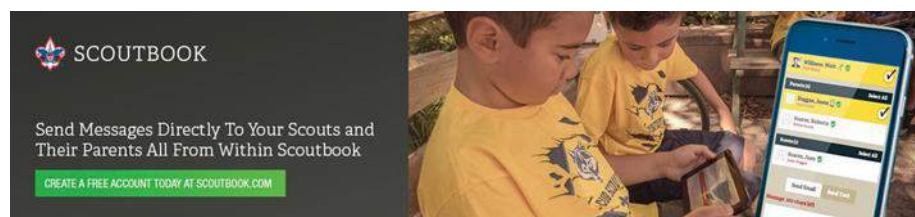
With customizable profiles and interactive features, Scoutbook puts the excitement of advancement into the hands of the Scout. They can share their success with friends and family as they progress through the program!

GETTING STARTED

If you don't have a Scoutbook account yet, visit Scoutbook.com to create one now. If your unit hasn't signed up for their Scoutbook account yet, don't worry, you can still log on and create an account for your Scout.

WHAT CAN SCOUTBOOK DO?

- Track a Scout's advancement
- Track logs like service hours, hiking, and camping
- View parent and/or Scout profiles
- Upload photos
- Send messages to leaders, Scouts, and parents
- Provide parent access to your Scouts' accounts
- Helps plan den meetings



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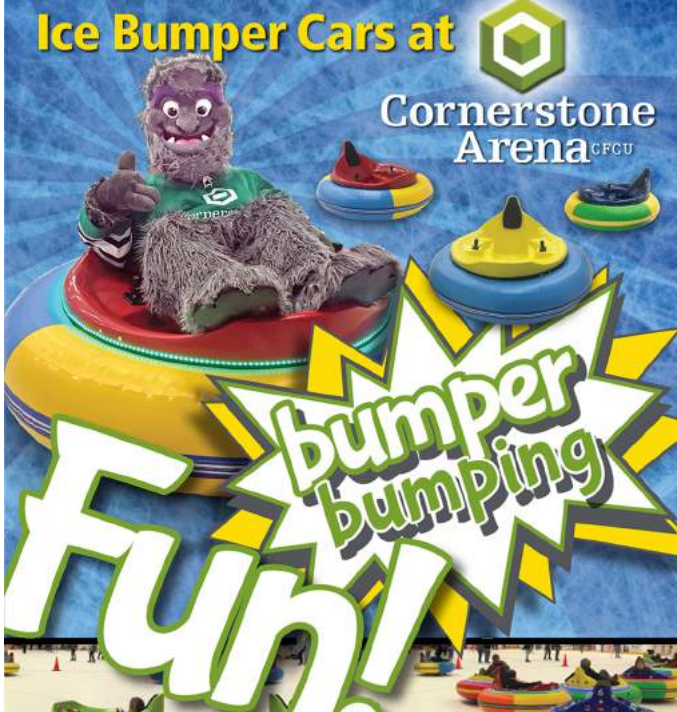
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TROOP SUCCESSION PLANNING WORKSHEET

POSITION	CURRENT	NEXT	NEXT	COMMENT
CHARTER ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVE				
SCOUTMASTER				
ASSISTANT SCOUTMASTER				
ASSISTANT SCOUTMASTER				
COMMITTEE CHAIR				
SECRETARY				
TREASURER				
ADVANCEMENT				
MEMBERSHIP/ RECRUITING				
QUARTERMASTER				
COMMITTEE MEMBER				
COMMITTEE MEMBER				
COMMITTEE MEMBER				

VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP

SCOUTS BSA LEADERSHIP

Volunteers make the Scouting program go. The BSA relies on its dedicated volunteers to promote its mission of preparing young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetime by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Scout Law. Ensuring adequate volunteer support is the final step in the Ideal Year of Scouting.

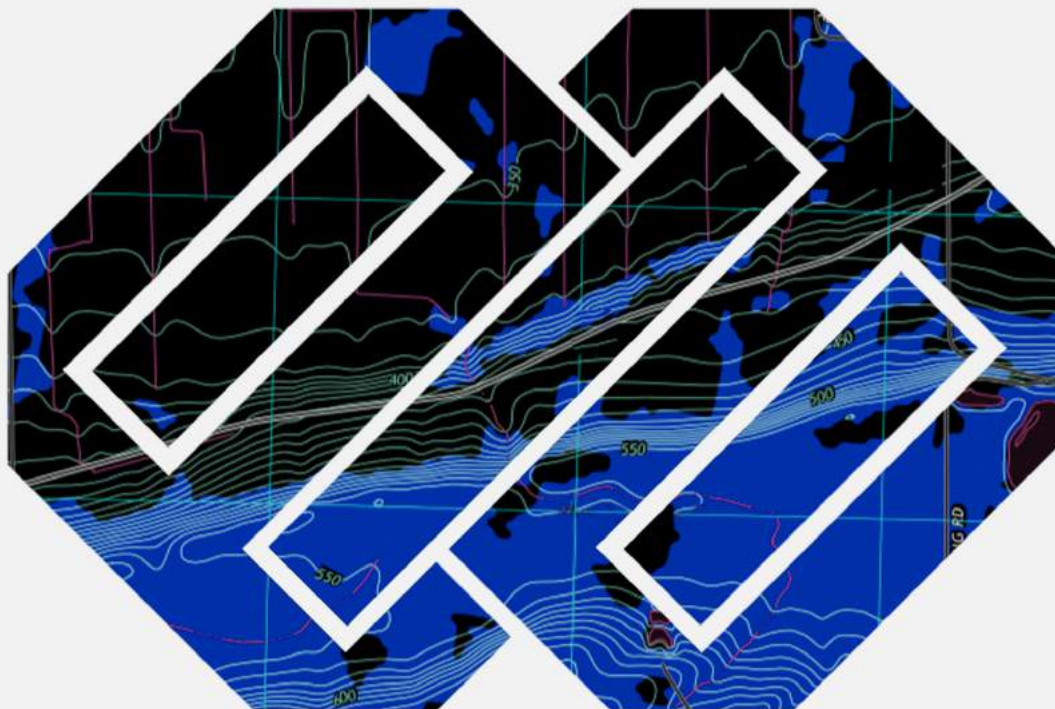
Volunteer Leadership					Total Points:			400
#10	Leadership and family engagement: The troop is proactive in recruiting sufficient leaders and communicates regularly with parents.	ave at least one registered assistant Scoutmaster.	chieve Bronze, plus the troop holds two courts of honor, where troop plans are reviewed with parents.	chieve Bronze, plus troop holds three courts of honor, where troop plans are reviewed with parents.	50	100	200	

#10 The troop will have Scoutmaster, ASM, and committee of at least three members. Ideally, chartered organization representative should not be dual registered as one of the committee members. Separate troops for males and females with same chartered organization may have shared unit committee. Troop will conduct courts of honor where youth are recognized and program plans shared with parents. Courts of honor may be done remotely. Ideally, "new" leader has never been registered before, but at least must not have been registered within past three years.

LEADERSHIP RECRUITMENT

Your troop could always use more volunteer help, right? But before you recruit a new leader, it is important to know what you need. Use the Troop Succession Planning Worksheet on the next page to find out what volunteer positions are vacant. You should also plan your succession strategy to make sure you identify future leaders now instead of later.

New recruits will also want to know their responsibilities and your expectations for them. Ask your troop families what volunteer positions they would like to fill. Use the New Parent Survey to help identify potential volunteers.



ESCARPMENT ARMS

TRAINED LEADERSHIP

Every Scout deserves a trained leader. A trained leader is knowledgeable and more confident in the role being performed. Trained leaders exhibit a knowledge and confidence that is picked up by people around them. Trained leaders impact the quality of programs, leader tenure, youth tenure, safety, and a whole lot more. A trained leader is better prepared to make the Scouting program all it can be!

Visit www.wnyscouting.org/training for the list of required trainings or to complete online training.

Item	Objective	Bronze Level	Silver Level	Gold Level	Bronze Points	Silver Points	Gold Points
	Planning and Budget				Total Points: 200		
#11	Trained leadership: have trained and engaged leaders at all levels. All leaders are required to have youth protection training.	Scoutmaster or an assistant Scoutmaster will have completed position-specific training.	Will achieve Bronze, plus the Scoutmaster and 60% of assistants will have completed position-specific training or, if new, will complete within three months of joining.	Will achieve Silver, plus two-thirds of active committee members will have completed position-specific training and at least one person will have attended an advanced training course involving a total of at least 5 days. Will register at least one new leader.	50	100	200

#11 All leaders have completed youth protection training. Scoutmaster and 60% of the assistants will have completed position-specific training or, if new, will complete within three months of joining. Two-thirds of active committee members (including chartered organization representative) will have completed position-specific training. For Gold, one leader must have attended an advanced training course involving a total of 5 days or more, such as Wood Badge, Summit or Philmont Training Center, at some point in their Scouting tenure.

Friends of Scouting

What is Friends of Scouting? What does it mean to be a Friend of Scouting? And why should you consider becoming one?

The Friends of Scouting (FOS) annual giving campaign is planned, directed and conducted by volunteers - and its success depends of them! Each volunteer team has a professional advisor (usually a district executive) to assist with communication, training and supplies.

The campaign kicks off during the Council Board Meeting in December and wraps up by May. Each unit presented with receive council prepared materials to make a successful 10-minute presentation.

Instant recognition for all gifts and pledges is done at a pack or troop meeting for any giving level. The presenter will be responsible for following up with the unit FOS chairman to contact the families that were not at the presentation. They will collect the pledge cards and the contributions and deliver them to the district executive or local council service center.

For more information, please go to <https://www.wnyscouting.org/giving>

ANNUAL POPCORN SALE

Hard work is a value that Scouting teaches and selling popcorn is a great way for Scouts to learn the importance of earning their own way.

WHY SELL POPCORN?

Selling popcorn helps pay for Scouting expenses like going to summer camp. But it's not just about selling, it's also about promoting Scouting! We're excited to partner with Trail's End Popcorn to deliver an unbeatable sale opportunity for our Scouts.

More than 70% sales supports your program and local Scouting! The Western New York Scout Council does all the pre-work to set up the sale, eliminating the need for your unit to research opportunities, calculate returns, create sales and promotional materials.

Sign-up to sell and get the latest popcorn resources including sales guides and best practices at <http://www.wnyscouting.org/popcorn>

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- Discounted rates on private group tours.
- "Scouting Rocks!" a free day for Scouts on September 16th, 2023.
- Commemorative fossil hunting patch.

For more information about
our Scout programming,
visit penndixie.org/scouts
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"Into the Depths of the Devonian" © Mike Menasco



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