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Pomperaug District Cub Scout Program Planning Guide

2018-2019 Scouting Year



*Serving the Scouting Communities of Bridgeport, Easton,
Fairfield, Monroe, Stratford, Trumbull Weston and Westport*

Welcome

Planning your unit's Annual Program is an opportunity to plan an exciting year of activities for all of youth of your unit. An annual plan is the foundation to a high performing unit. An annual plan will allow you to recruit more scouts, offer better programs and stay financially solvent. Following the steps in this guide can provide opportunities for more Scouts and aid you in obtaining a Journey to Excellence Award. And we want to help!

The steps in the program planning process are not complicated and this guide will walk you through all of the steps that your unit should take to ensure a quality program.

Our District Team can provide resources and help in recruitment, programs and activities, advancement, finances, fund raising and more. Your Unit Commissioner is there to help coach and guide and represent your unit's needs to the District and Council. Thanks so much for your unit leadership and being a part of our Powahay Team. Please do not hesitate to contact us for questions, concerns and areas that we can help.

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Program Planning

To Start Planning Your Annual Program Go To:

<https://www.scouting.org/programs/cub-scouts/leaders/pack-committee-resources/unit-program-planning-tools/>



One of the key elements of all successful units and an indicator of a potentially successful year would be the unit's annual program plan and planning conference. Research has shown that a common element of a strong unit is a good annual program planned a year in advance that is then shared with all families in the form of a calendar. The important result of a shared annual program calendar is that a unit will attract more families and Scouts will stay involved longer.

Preparation

The unit program planning conference offers the opportunity to draw up an effective, exciting course of action. The conference is organized and conducted by the cubmaster with the help of the committee chairman. At the above link you can download the guide to setting up this important planning.



The Annual Program Planning Conference

It is not hard to figure out what keeps Scouts in the program. They like to have fun, do really cool challenging stuff, go places, and learn things, even though they might not want to admit it. That is what we call program, and it doesn't just happen by chance. It takes planning and preparations, starting with your planning conference. Use these ground rules while discussing ideas at your conference, and you can add your own rules, too: It is important to respect the views of each other, Listen and don't interrupt, Keep focused on your task to plan your annual program, Don't get sidetracked, Write out your ideas so everyone can see them, Be in agreement.



Your plan will be a living, breathing document. For it to have real value, you must follow it, share it with everyone, and review it regularly to see if modifications must be made. Good luck on another great year, and don't forget to share your plan and calendar with every Scout family!

The national program planning site, at the link above, also offers a variety of tools and templates to help your unit have a successful program planning conference.

Fall Camporee

Hoyt Scout Reservation
Redding, CT
October 12-14

WEBELOS Outdoor Weekend

Hoyt Scout Reservation
Redding, CT
October 12-14

Cub-O-Ree

Old Mine Park
Trumbull, CT
September 23

Activities

District Events

The Pomperaug District host three annual events targeted for Cub Scouts of various levels: the fall camporee, WEBELOS Outdoor Weekend (WOW) and the Cub-O-Ree.

The Cub-O-Ree is open to all Cub Scouts and offers an all day program with lots of great activities such as: BB Guns, Archery, Arts and Crafts, scout skills and much more. There is no overnight component to this event.

The WEBELOS Outdoor Weekend (WOW) offers program activities such as BB Guns, sling shots, and Archery with the opportunity to complete WEBELOS adventure requirements as well. There is an overnight camping component to this event to give the WEBELOS a taste of some of the experiences they will get after they cross over.

The fall camporee is open to Arrow of Light Scouts to camp with a troop and participate in all of the activities they take part in at the event. This is a great opportunity for scouts to get the full scouting experience.

Council Events

In addition to the events put on by the district, the Connecticut Yankee Council puts on a variety of events targeted at cub scouts. These events are packed with great adventures for your scouts and offers them the opportunity to interact with scouts from other packs.

Over the summer the council holds 6 weeks of Cub Scout Day Camp at locations throughout the council. Scouts will have the opportunity to participate in great activities like, archery, BB guns, scout skills, arts and crafts and much more. The council also holds a Cub Scout family weekend that offers similar programming opportunities but is available for the whole family and adds an overnight experience. More information can be found at <http://www.ctyankee.org/camping/cubcamping>

Scout Day a Lime Rock Race Park is a favorite event of many scouts. Scouts will get to check out classic race cars, watch a live car race, and adult leaders even have a chance to race a lap with a professional driver. More information available at <http://www.ctyankee.org/program/limerock>

The annual Fishing Derby at Deer Lake gives your scouts the opportunity to fish for Trout in its well stocked Lake. Scouts can earn prizes for their catches. Adults get the opportunity to fish as well, and there is an optional overnight component as well. More information can be found at <http://www.ctyankee.org/program/fishingderby>

Lions Program



This program year the Lion Scout Program will be moving from a Pilot Program to a full program just like Tiger, Wolf, Bear, WEBELOS and Arrow of Light. This means that your unit will no longer have to apply to be a part of the program, all units can have lions as part of their regular program.

With the transition to a full program there will be some changes. The first is that the adult leader position name will be changed from the Lion Guide to a Den Leader, just like every other rank. However, the den leader will still be expected to have all of the families involved in the program. The den leader will coordinate the program for the year and solicit help from each of the families in the den to be in charge of at least one of the meetings.



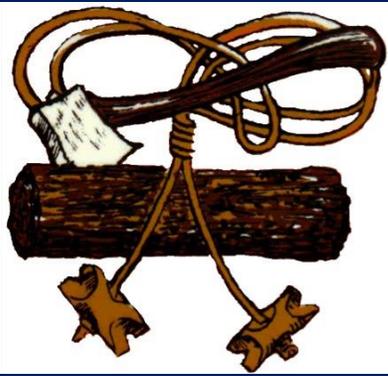
Kindergarten-Age Youth

The other big change is to the Lion badge. The badge will transition from the diamond shaped badge to a rectangular badge to integrate better into the uniform once the scout transitions into Tigers. The new Lion's badge will be positioned below the current ranks on the Blue Cub Scout uniform once the scout becomes a Tiger.

Lions will not wear the traditional cub scout blue uniform, but will instead wear a Lion's Tee shirt. The program is set up very similar to the tiger program where the scouts work on adventures along side their adult partners in a den setting. However, unlike the other ranks, Lion's will not earn the Bobcat before working on their Lion badge.

Since Lion's are a part of your pack, they can come to your regular pack meetings and participate in pack level activities such as pack campouts. The lions program is a great opportunity to expand the reach of your pack and to get them involved in scouting at the beginning in their time in elementary school. For more information on the lion program, visit the national Lion Scout page at <https://www.scouting.org/programs/cub-scouts/lion/>.

Advanced Training Opportunities



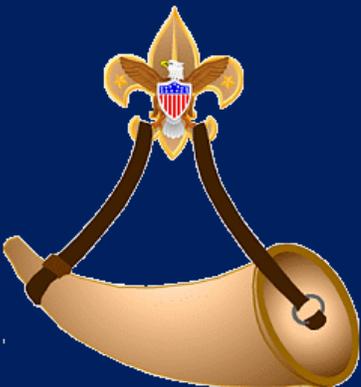
Woodbadge

August 24 - 26, 2018

**Deer Lake Scout
Reservation,
Killingworth, CT**

**September 21- 23,
2018**

**Hoyt Scout
Reservation,
Redding, CT**



Powderhorn

September 28 - 30, 2018

**Camp Sequassen,
New Hartford, CT**

Training

TRAINING FOR YOUR ADULT LEADERS

Leader Online Training

<http://www.ctyankee.org/program/training/newonline>

The BSA is pleased to announce the launch of the Cub Scout Leader eLearning content. Working closely with a team of experts and experienced volunteers, specific content was developed to provide a high quality learning experience while creating an additional training option for volunteers who need to complete their position specific training requirements.

Modules, each ranging from 4-12 minutes in length, were designed to be viewed over a period time, and can be completed on a computer or tablet any time of day – from anywhere. These modules are a valuable resource for leaders to refer to when needed. For all leaders, completion of the required eLearning modules for your role will trigger you as position trained in the BSA Learn Center. If you are already position trained, this will not affect your trained status.

In addition to the position basic training requirements, if your pack will be holding an overnight event at least one leader will need to complete BALOO training (Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation) at your event to be in compliance with BSA policies. This training has recently been revamped to be more relevant to leaders. The biggest change is that the training now incorporates an overnight camping experience. The council periodically offers this course in conjunction with Introduction to Outdoor Leaders Skills (IOLS) for Boy Scout Leaders. Keep an eye on the council training calendar for the next course offering:

<http://www.ctyankee.org/program/training/catalogue>

Please note: Fast Start trainings are now retired and have been replaced by this online learning. Please refer to the Cub Scout Position Trained Requirements chart to see the online module requirements necessary to be completed for your specific position.

Scouters who prefer to complete their courses in a face-to-face classroom environment can find course dates here at:

<http://www.ctyankee.org/program/training/catalogue> or contact our district training chair Gene Waring at ewaring@snet.net to set up a personal training session for your unit.

As always, the BSA Learn Center continually strives to provide content you need – when you need it. ScoutingU and the BSA Learn Center can be reached through <https://my.scouting.org/>.

WEBELOS to Scout Transition

It should be the goal of the Cubmaster and WEBELOS den leaders to graduate every WEBELOS Scout into a Boy Scout troop. The key to accomplishing this is to begin promoting Boy Scouting when Cub Scouts are still in their Tiger, Wolf, and Bear dens, and to sell the sizzle of the great outdoors. Scouting should be viewed as an ongoing adventure, and the progression should be as normal as moving from elementary school to middle school. Here are some ways to help ensure that your WEBELOS move on in the Scouting program:

1. Develop a working relationship with the leadership of a Boy Scout troop or troops in the community. Most troops should have either an assistant Scoutmaster or a committee member assigned to new Scouts. Your unit commissioner can help put you in contact with troop leaders.
2. Compare calendars of troop and pack activities to coordinate activities. Community events can be done together, and planning can help prevent conflicts in use of equipment and facilities.
3. Work with troop leaders to secure den chiefs for each WEBELOS den and Cub Scout den.
4. Work with troop leaders to plan and conduct WEBELOS overnight activities.
5. Work with troop leaders to plan visits to troop meetings. Never show up without first calling in advance.
6. Invite the Scoutmaster and troop youth leaders to special pack activities. This will help create familiarity and a level of comfort for the WEBELOS Scouts and their parents as they ease into the troop.
7. Plan a meaningful crossover ceremony at the pack's blue and gold banquet. Include troop leadership to be present to accept the WEBELOS Scouts as they graduate to Boy Scouting. The local Order of the Arrow lodge can often be a valuable resource in conducting ceremonies.
8. WEBELOS leaders should be strongly encouraged to move into the troop with the boys, either as assistant Scoutmasters or troop committee members. This will give the new Scouts a familiar face at troop meetings and a connecting link to Boy Scouting.



FAMILY SCOUTING

OFFERING ICONIC BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA PROGRAMS TO BOYS AND GIRLS



Family Scouting

Early in 2018 the BSA opened up the Cub Scouting Program to girls in the early adopter program. Starting in the fall, adding girls to existing packs or creating all girl packs will be open to all units. Packs are given the choice to remain boy's only, allow girls into their existing packs or to create a new girls only pack. Starting in February of 2019 we will be expanding our inclusion of girls to older girls. The boy scout troop will still remain boys only, but new troops can be formed that are girls only. The program for girls will be the exact same as the current boy scout and cub scout programs. To better align with this change, the Boy Scout program will be changing its name to Scouts BSA. The overall organization name, Boy Scouts of America, will remain the same.

New materials such as handbooks and marketing materials are being updated to reflect the inclusion of girls into the cub scout program. While the content of the materials will remain largely the same, the language will be updated to include both male and female pronouns and photos will now feature both boys and girls.

While unit leaders should help determine if adding girls to your pack is for them, it is ultimately the choice of the charter organization whether to add girls to your existing pack or add an all girl pack. If a charter organization feels adding girls is not appropriate for their organization, they can continue on with the cub scout program as it was run before girls were added to the program.

New information is being released all the time about these new changes to the program. For all of the latest information visit the family scouting website at <https://www.scouting.org/familyscouting/>.

Communication

Stay in touch with the latest updates from the Pomperaug District by signing up for our email list. All emails are targeted by your town, unit type and position, so you will never receive an email that is not relevant to you. Sign up at <http://www.ctyankee.org/districts/pomperaug/mail>.

The Pomperaug District also puts out a monthly newsletter with more articles on policy changes, upcoming events, planning idea and much much more. You can check out the latest edition at <http://www.ctyankee.org/fs/page/002483/april2018.pdf>



Recruitment

Membership recruitment is one of the pillar to ensure that your unit thrives now and for years to come. Recruitment should not be a once a year activity, but should be a continuous process throughout the year, with extra emphasis put on the activity in the Fall and Spring. Recruitment is not just for recruiting youth though, actively recruiting adult volunteers is also an essential part of the process as well.

To coincide with the launch of the family scouting programs the national BSA office has developed a new marketing campaign “Scout Me In”. Recruitment materials of all kinds have been developed to aid your unit in its recruitment effort, and all of them can be used free of charge. More information about the new marketing campaign and materials can be found at <https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2018/05/02/scout-me-in/>.

Another great source of information and recruitment materials is the national marketing hub and brand center. It contains a wealth of knowledge you can use in planning your recruitment efforts. This information can be found at <https://scoutingwire.org/marketing-membership/>.

Also, did you know that the council office provides services to help with your recruitment efforts? They will print custom flyers for your recruitment events with all of the necessary information, yard signs and other marketing materials free of charge, but adequate notice must be given. Also, our district executive loves to help out at scout talks and is one of the best at it. If it fits in his schedule he will gladly assist you with your scout talks. If you are interested in any of these services contact our district executive Bill Reynolds at bill.reynolds@scouting.org.





Commissioner Service

Roundtable

Roundtable is a training and programming opportunity offered by a team of experienced district volunteers each month. Each month different topics related to different parts of the scouting program are discussed. In addition to being a great learning opportunity for adult volunteers it is also a great opportunity to network with scout leaders from other units and get new ideas from other units.

Our district's roundtable is held every month from September through June on the second Tuesday starting at 7:30PM at the Trumbull LDS Church, 30 Bonnie View Dr.

Over the summer the district round table team will be developing the roundtable topics for the next scouting year. Announcement of the roundtable topics will be announced on the district website, newsletter and email list.

Unit Commissioners

Scouting magazine calls the Commissioner "a combination of adviser, counselor, information and idea resource person, and cheerleader." Commissioners have one essential goal: Do whatever it takes to help unit leaders succeed in effectively delivering the ideals of Scouting.

Commissioners are district volunteers that coach and guide unit leaders, help maintain the standards of the Boy Scouts of America and oversee the unit charter renewal plan.

The district leadership has been working hard over the last few years to increase our unit commissioner staff. While most of our units currently have a unit commissioner, we are striving to get a unit commissioner for every unit within the district. If your unit currently does not have a unit commissioner and believe that it would be a benefit to your unit, contact our district commissioner, Seth Strohecker at seth.strohecker@gmail.com, to get one assigned to you.

We are always looking to expand our team. If you are interested in becoming a commissioner, contact our district commissioner, Seth Strohecker at seth.strohecker@gmail.com, for more information.

District Calendar

June
16 – Council Day of Service
16 – Catholic Awards Ceremony
July
August
24-26 – Wood Badge Session 1 (Deer Lake)
September
4 – District Committee Meeting (Trumbull LDS Church)
4 – District Roundtable (Trumbull LDS Church)
21-23 - Wood Badge Session 2 (Hoyt Scout Reservation)
23 – Cub-O-Ree (Old Mine Park, Trumbull)
28-30 – Powder horn (Camp Sequassen)
28-29 – Scout Day at Lime Rock (Lime Rock Auto Race Park)
October
2 – District Committee Meeting (Trumbull LDS Church)
9 – District Roundtable (Trumbull LDS Church)
12-14 – Fall Camporee (Hoyt Scout Reservation)
13-14 – WEBELOS Outdoor Weekend (Hoyt Scout Reservation)
November
6 – District Committee Meeting (Trumbull LDS Church)
13 – District Roundtable (Trumbull LDS Church)
December
4 – District Committee Meeting (Trumbull LDS Church)
11 – District Roundtable (Trumbull LDS Church)
January
1 – District Committee Meeting (Trumbull LDS Church)
8 – District Roundtable (Trumbull LDS Church)
February
5 – District Committee Meeting (Trumbull LDS Church)
12 – District Roundtable (Trumbull LDS Church)
21 – District Dinner
March
5 – District Committee Meeting (Trumbull LDS Church)
12 – District Roundtable (Trumbull LDS Church)
April
2 – District Committee Meeting (Trumbull LDS Church)
9 – District Roundtable (Trumbull LDS Church)
TBD – Fishing Derby (Deer Lake Scout Reservation)
May
7 – District Committee Meeting (Trumbull LDS Church)
14 – District Roundtable (Trumbull LDS Church)
TBD – District Pinewood Derby
June
4 – District Committee Meeting (Trumbull LDS Church)
11 – District Kickoff (Trumbull LDS Church)

Pomperaug District Organization

What is a District? A Scouting District is a geographical area of the BSA local Council. District volunteer leaders mobilize resources to ensure the growth and success of Scouting Units within the District's territory. All Districts are responsible for carrying out four standard functions:

1. Membership 2. Finance 3. Program 4. Unit Service

The membership, finance, and program functions are carried out by members of the District Committee. The Unit service function is carried out by the District Commissioner Staff.

