

# Boy Scout Breakout Troop Annual Planning February 1, 2018



### Why plan ahead?

- Long-range planning is important
  - Allows parents to hold dates on calendar
    - Increases Scout participation
  - Provides time to work out all of the details
    - Increases success of outing
  - Allows activities to better match the season
    - If you only plan a month or two ahead, you may mismatch outings
  - Alleviates budget concerns
    - Can balance yearly costs across the year
  - Demonstrates important principle in life
    - Scouts need to realize planning is essential to their future





#### How far ahead to plan?

- 12 months is a good goal
  - Feedback has shown scouts / adults like information a year out
- Keep at least 3-6 months buffer
  - Don't wait until the full plan is completed before starting to plan another year









## Who should plan? Scouts!

- Meet with SPL / ASPL before meeting
  - Help prepare them for success
  - Outline goals of meeting / expected outcome
- Remind Patrol Leaders
  - They represent the members of their patrol
  - Solicit ideas / feedback from patrol and bring to meeting
- Whole troop is too many
  - Patrol Leader's Council is a good subset
  - PLC provides a good representation of troop



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## **Prepare Ahead of Planning**

#### What to bring to your planning meeting?

- Holiday calendar for period to plan
- School Calendars for same
- District & Council Calendars
- Lodge Calendar
- Church / Charter Org Calendar
- Listing of Troop events from prior years
- Budget info
- Feedback / Idea lists from patrols (PLs)











## What should be planned?

- Choose a high level theme for each month
  - No need to plan details yet
  - Suggest target of one event per month
- Example themes
  - Make sure themes are Scouting related and appropriate
    - First Aid, Pioneering, Swimming, Boot Camp
    - Hiking, Canoeing, Biking, Backpacking
    - Sports (Football, Kickball, Capture the flag, Ultimate)
    - Caving, Whitewater, Climbing, COPE, Shooting
    - And many more ...

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### **Separate Meeting**

#### Typically takes about 3 hours

- Scouts compile lists of ideas
- Voting amongst members to narrow down list
- Reviewed by Adults during process
  - Verify plan is appropriate for Scouting
  - Encourage variety, discourage repetitive events
  - Must be affordable (only one or two costlier events per year)
  - Verify plan does not conflict with holidays / lodge events
- If possible, get a room with a whiteboard
  - Allows Scouts to see what they are discussing / voting on



#### **Publish Results**

- Troop Scribe posts results
  - Allows whole troop to see what was discussed and selected
- Troop Committee should review / approve
  - Should happen soon after meeting
  - Verify dates / budget concerns / Scouting policy
- Update Troop Calendar AFTER approval
  - No good to have a plan if no one knows about it
  - Important for Journey To Excellence achievement





## **Outing Planning**

#### Follow your troop process

- Plan details for each outing based on lead times required for each outing
- Most outings should complete high-level planning at least 3 months in advance
  - Location reservations are typically the key aspect
  - Some outings will require more lead time (for example: Ski outings, shooting outing (need range reservations), etc)

#### Suggest Boy Lead planning

Never do a task a Scout can do





## **Outing Details**

- Scouts can successfully plan everything
  - We assign a patrol to each outing
  - Patrol Leader / APL responsible for putting together details for outing
    - Selection of location, reservations, and necessary permits
    - Formulate activities for weekend and itinerary
    - Create transportation plan for personnel and gear
  - Adult leaders supervise and assist as needed (mentor)
- Scouts review everything
  - PL presents plan to PLC starting 3 months out
    - Includes MoC for Campfire, Scouts Own service, schedule







- What does your troop do today?
- Ideas to share with group?



