

Troop Program Planning Agenda

- I.** Troop Organization
 - a. Troop Structure
- II.** 2006 Popcorn Product Line-up
 - a. Secure your Unit Popcorn Chairman before the end of May 2006 (Job Description enclosed)
- III.** Top Council Focus is Quality Program, through 100% of leaders trained and calendar planning.
 - a. Set the expectations of new leaders
- IV.** Program Planning
 - a. Troop Program Planning
 - i.** What / Why, When, when, who, funding
 - 1. This planning session is to develop the upcoming year's program for the Troop and to review how programming went the past year.
 - 2. This is usually held in the Months of April or May.
 - 3. This planning is facilitated by the SPL. The youth of the planning session are the main participants but the adults should be in attendance to guide them as needed.
 - 4. Troop Programming is funded through either popcorn sales or some other type of fundraiser, so boys can earn financial responsibility of earning his own way.
 - 5. Supporting the council so it can support your unit.
 - a. Camp Updates: Currently the council is in the process of updating all three camp properties, totaling nearly \$500,000 but this will not allow for future upgrades or on going maintenance costs.
 - b. Need for Family FOS Participation: In order for the council to maintain the camps into the future each Troop needs to participate in Family FOS by allowing a volunteer to conduct a presentation to the parents to contribute financially to scouting.
 - c. Need for extensive Popcorn Sale Participation: The popcorn sales are a major funding source for the council. In 2005 Packs sold \$461,870 in popcorn while Troops sold \$117,400. There are large opportunities for popcorn sale growth with Boy Scout Troops. Troops are the primary users of all three camps and their support through popcorns sales is one way to secure future maintenance for these camps.
 - b. Troop Meetings / Activities and Super Activities
 - i.** How often are they held..
 - 1. Troop Meetings should be held at least twice a month.
 - 2. Troop Activities should be conducted at least once a month
 - 3. Super Activities should take place at least 4 times a year.
 - ii.** Troop Meetings
 - 1. The primary purpose of Troop Meetings are to prepare the boys for the next outing / super activity that is taking place. IE: Troop is going rock climbing next month. The meetings should revolve around rock climbing preparation. This can be done by an internal speaker or outside speaker / teacher. Troop Meetings should run for no more than 1½ hour.
 - iii.** Troop Activities:
 - 1. Troop activities are items such as Troop Campouts, Bowling Parties, Swim Parties, Lock-Ins, Valley Fair, Twins Baseball Game, Mystery Nights etc.
 - iv.** Troop Super Activities:
 - 1. Super activities are items such as Boundary Water Trips, Ski Trips, Rock Climbing Trips, Extensive Camping Trips, and Hiking Trips.

V. Lets plan a sample program (refer to the Troop Program Guide Handout for ideas)

a. Conduct as a Group

i. SPL, Adults and Youth selected from group in attendance

1. Set-up / Prep (Material Needs)

a. Flip chart paper

b. Year-round desk calendar (22" x 17" - \$2.98 @ Staples)



c. Markers

d. School calendars

e. Church calendars

f. Council & District calendar

2. Brainstorming (Dreaming)

a. SPL prepares

i. Flip chart papers with

1. Activities, Events, Places that the patrols want to do (brainstorming)

2. Merit Badges that the patrols want to work on (brainstorming)

3. Budgeting chart (month, activity, cost)

ii. Desk calendar with all the council, district, school, & chartering org date

b. Process:

i. Use flip chart paper to brainstorm activities, events, locations, and merit badges that the boys want to work on. Once done brainstorming, cross off the activities that aren't possible due to age limits or Scouting rules. Vote on the remaining activities to create a priority list.

3. Planning / Plugging in the dates

a. Process (cont.):

i. Use the calendars to fill in the holes around council, district, and chartering organization activities – 1 activity per month, 4 super activities per year. Use sticky notes (3M Post it Notes) – 1 per activity – to allow for moving activities around. Use the priority list from above to select activities.

ii. Once the activities are filled in, fill in the troop meetings before the activities to support the activities. Activities should support any merit badge work that's requested. Use sticky notes (3M Post it Notes) – 1 per meeting – to allow for moving meetings around. Don't forget to schedule PLC and troop committee meetings.

4. Budgeting (**Excel & PDF budgeting program available at www.twinvalleybsa.org**)
 - a. After all the meetings and activities are scheduled, go month-by-month and list the activities and expected costs (prepare the budget.)
 - b. This will help determine how much money needs to be raised by each boy to accomplish this year's planned program.
5. Plugging in the dates
 - a. Now that your calendar is developed it needs to be completely put into a hard copy format and provide to all scout families within the Troop. Showing them what their son's responsibility is in order for the Troop to do all these things.

VI. Providing your Troop Program to potential **NEW Boys through a Troop Rally / Open House (Handout)**

- a. Present the School Rally (Step 1)
 - i. Boy Fact Surveys
- b. Mail the Invitation (Step 2)
- c. Follow up with a phone call (Step 3)
- d. Host the Troop Open House (Step 4)