

Planning Your “Ideal Year of Cub Scouting” Program Budget

A Cub Scout Pack’s Annual Budget Plan

What is the “ideal year of Cub Scouting” plan? It is implementing the elements of a complete annual Cub Scouting program for youth, committing as a pack to incorporate these elements, and then providing adequate funding for them. Even more, it is committing to implementing the plan with the entire pack: Cub Scouts, leaders, and families, by raising enough dollars to fund the “ideal year of Cub Scouting.” The result is a well-managed, well-financed unit.

The steps to an “ideal year of Cub Scouting” are:

1. Plan the pack’s complete annual program.
2. Develop a budget that includes enough income to achieve the program.
3. Identify all sources of income (den dues and any traditional pack activities), and then determine the amount of product sale and the sales goal per youth member that will be needed to reach the income goal.
4. Gain commitments from parents, leaders, and all Cub Scouts.

If you like to raise money every month, plan your program as you go, limit your activities based on the unit’s income, or not involve the youth members in the planning process, then this format might not be for you! Those leaders who want a meaningful, exciting, and comprehensive youth program that achieves the objectives of Cub Scouting will find this format the ideal way to go.

BASIC EXPENSES

1] Registration Fees. When a boy joins, normally the unit asks him to pay the full \$10 national registration fee* regardless of the number of months remaining in the unit’s charter year. The unit sends to the council the prorated amount for those remaining months.

Note that fees are figured on a monthly basis:

1 month 85¢; 2 months \$1.70; 3 months \$2.55; 4 months \$3.40; 5 months \$4.25; 6 months \$5.10; 7 months \$5.95; 8 months \$6.80; 9 months \$7.65; 10 months \$8.50; 11 months \$9.35; 12 months \$10.

The balance of the boy’s fee is kept in the unit treasury to supplement his dues in paying the next full year’s fee. This procedure ensures prompt registration at charter renewal.

2] Unit Charter Fee. Packs are required to pay an annual charter fee of \$20. This fee is submitted with the pack’s annual charter application and helps to defray the expenses for their general liability insurance.

3] Boys’ Life. *Boys’ Life* magazine, the official publication of the Boy Scouts of America, is available to all members at \$12, which is half the newsstand rate. (Prorated fees are available for youth who join a unit during the year.) Every boy should subscribe to *Boys’ Life* because of the quality reading and the articles related to your unit’s monthly program. It is part of a boy’s growth in Scouting, and research proves he will stay in longer and advance farther if he reads *Boys’ Life*.

4] Unit Accident Insurance. Protecting leaders and parents from financial hardship due to high medical bills from an unfortunate accident is a must for all involved in Scouting. Specific details on insurance programs are available from the local council.

5] Advancement and Recognition. Every Cub Scout should earn and advance a rank and receive the patch for that rank each year. Active Webelos Scouts will earn multiple activity badges in addition to their rank advancements. The Cub Scout advancement program has many elements that include Arrow Points, immediate recognition patches, outdoor awards, and Academics and Sports belt loops and pins.

6] Activities. Critical to the successful “ideal year of Cub Scouting” is a complete program. Traditionally, such activities as Cub Scout pinewood derbies®, field trips, and district or council activities are financed by the boy and his family over and above the dues programs. It is suggested that the complete cost of these outings be built into the unit’s budget.

7] Cub Scout Day Camp, Cub Scout Resident Camp, Family Camping. Central to a complete Cub Scouting year are summer camping experiences. Local council opportunities abound for Cub Scouts and their families to have exciting, program-rich summer experiences.

8] Program Materials. Each pack needs to provide certain program materials. Depending on the type of unit program, these could include den meeting supplies, Den Meeting in a Box kits, craft tools and supplies, U.S. flag, pack and den flags, camping equipment, videos and books, or ceremonial props. (Note: Packs may not hold title to property. Only chartered organizations or the local council legally can own property.)

9] Training Expenses. Trained leaders are key to delivering a quality and safe program. Adult and youth leader training should be considered an integral annual pack expense.

* The same rate applies for registered adult Scouters.



10] Full Uniforms. Traditionally, the individual pays for the uniform. We suggest that these expenses become part of the total cost of the Scouting year. Using “individual youth accounts,” units can determine a fund-raising goal for new Scouts who need uniforms, etc. The full Cub Scouting program includes the full uniform!

11] Reserve Fund. The reserve fund might be established by a gift or loan from the chartered organization, by members of the committee, or by a unit money-earning project. The reserve fund should be intended for unexpected expenses. A new member’s initial expenses may be met from the fund.

12] Other Expenses. These could include a gift to the World Friendship Fund, meeting refreshments, and/or contingency funds.

SOURCES OF INCOME

“One fund-raiser per year” is a central theme of the “ideal year of Cub Scouting.” Rather than nickel-and-dime families every week, it is better to figure the total cost for the complete year up front. Ideally, all income would come from den dues and one fund-raising program at the beginning of the program year each fall. A spring fund-raiser could be included, but with the proceeds dedicated to each youth member’s individual camping account.

Some Important Points:

Paying your own way. This is a fundamental principle of the Boy Scouts of America. It is one of the reasons why no solicitations (requests for contributions from individuals or the community) are permitted by Cub Scout packs. Young people in Scouting are taught early on that if they want something in life, they need to earn it. This principle is among the reasons that adults who were Scouts are found to

have higher incomes. The finance plan of any pack should include participation by a Cub Scout in a regular dues plan.

An annual pack participation fee, too often completely contributed by parents, does little to teach a boy responsibility. The unit’s entire budget must be provided for by the families, either through fundraising or other means such as dues or fees.

Individual youth accounts. Packs using this method have traditionally had stronger programs with less turnover of youth (Cub Scouts are retained). Individual Cub Scout accounts, whereby the pack keeps track of how much a Cub Scout or his family has raised toward his “ideal year of Cub Scouting” goal, are critical to the success of this program. When individual Cub Scouts are credited for their efforts, they develop a sense of personal responsibility and participation.

Except for council-sponsored product sales, all other money-earning projects require the submission of the Unit Money-Earning Application, No. 34427, to the local council. To ensure conformity with all Scouting standards on money earning, leaders should be familiar with the eight guides listed on the back of the application, on the last page of this planning guide, and in the financial record books.

OTHER HELPS

Additional information concerning pack budget plans, the treasurer’s job, camp savings, forms, and records can be found in the *Pack Record Book*, No. 33819, and the *Cub Scout Leader Book*, No. 33221. It is recommended that Cub Scout packs use one of the commercial software programs developed for Scouting units. These tools are great for keeping track of individual youth accounts. They are usually advertised in the back of *Scouting* magazine.

“Ideal Year of Cub Scouting” Budget Worksheet

To develop the pack budget, complete the worksheet with the unit leader and committee at the pack’s annual program planning conference, and then share it with the Cub Scouts’ parents. Be sure to keep parents involved and informed. The pack’s program calendar and budget information needs to be communicated regularly to families, especially at the start of the program year. By sharing the pack’s program plans and budgetary needs, you can help newly recruited Cub Scouts and their parents gain a greater understanding of just what fun is waiting for them during the pack’s entire program year.

GUIDES TO UNIT MONEY-EARNING PROJECTS

A unit's money-earning methods should reflect Scouting's basic values. Whenever your unit is planning a money-earning project, this checklist can serve as your guide. If your answer is "Yes" to all the questions that follow, it is likely the project conforms to Scouting's standards and will be approved.

1. Do you really need a fund-raising project?

There should be a real need for raising money based on your unit's program. Units should not engage in money-earning projects merely because someone has offered an attractive plan. Remember that individual youth members are expected to earn their own way. The need should be beyond normal budget items covered by dues.

2. If any contracts are to be signed, will they be signed by an individual, without reference to the Boy Scouts of America and without binding the local council, the Boy Scouts of America, or the chartered organization?

Before any person in your unit signs a contract, he must make sure the venture is legitimate and worthy. If a contract is signed, s/he is personally responsible. S/he may not sign on behalf of the local council or the Boy Scouts of America, nor may s/he bind the chartered organization without its written authorization. If you are not sure, check with your district executive for help.

3. Will your fund-raiser prevent promoters from trading on the name and goodwill of the Boy Scouts of America?

Because of Scouting's good reputation, customers rarely question the quality or price of a product. The nationwide network of Scouting units must not become a beehive of commercial interest.

4. Will the fund-raising activity uphold the good name of the BSA? Does it avoid games of chance, gambling, etc.?

Selling raffle tickets or other games of chance is a direct violation of the BSA Rules and Regulations, which forbid gambling. The product must not detract from the ideals and principles of the BSA.

5. If a commercial product is to be sold, will it be sold on its own merits and without reference to the needs of Scouting?

All commercial products must sell on their own merits, not the benefit received by the Boy Scouts. The principle of value received is critical in choosing what to sell.

6. If a commercial product is to be sold, will the fund-raising activity comply with BSA policy on wearing the uniform?

The official uniform is intended to be worn primarily for use in connection with Scouting activities. However, council executive boards may approve use of the uniform for any fund-raising activity. Typically, council popcorn sales or Scout show ticket sales are approved uniform fund-raisers.

7. Will the fund-raising project avoid soliciting money or gifts?

The BSA Rules and Regulations state, "Youth members shall not be permitted to serve as solicitors of money for their chartered organizations, for the local council, or in support of other organizations. Adult and youth members shall not be permitted to serve as solicitors of money in support of personal or unit participation in local, national, or international events."

For example: Boy Scouts/Cub Scouts and leaders should not identify themselves as Boy Scouts/Cub Scouts or as a troop/pack participate in The Salvation Army's Christmas Bell Ringing program. This would be raising money for another organization. **At no time are units permitted to solicit contributions for unit programs.**

8. Does the fund-raising activity avoid competition with other units, your chartered organization, your local council, and the United Way?

Check with your chartered organization representative and your district executive to make certain that your chartered organization and the council agree on the dates and type of fund-raiser.

The local council is responsible for upholding the Charter and By-laws and the Rules and Regulations of the BSA. To ensure compliance, all unit fund-raisers MUST OBTAIN WRITTEN APPROVAL from the local council NO LESS THAN 14 DAYS before the fund-raising activity.

