

ANNUAL PROGRAM PLANNING

ANNUAL PACK PROGRAM PLANNING CONFERENCE:

What Is It? An annual meeting of all pack leaders designed to establish the year's program based on twelve monthly themes and Webelos activity badges, along with special activities, all tailored to the pack's needs.

Why Is It Held? A program planned twelve months in advance allows leaders to look ahead. Advance preparation ensures a well-rounded program of fun, variety, action, and purpose.

Who Attends? The pack committee chairman and Cubmaster are jointly responsible for seeing that this meeting occurs. The meeting is conducted by the pack committee chairman. All den and pack leaders, den chief, Tiger Cub Coaches, and interested parents attend. The unit commissioner also should be invited.

When Is It Held? Each year, in July, or August. This training tip is covered in much more detail in the Cub Scout Leader book which is available for purchase from your Scout shop. In Chapter 24 you will see a wealth of information on why and how to plan this all important conference. The council provides a planning packet for each Cub Pack. It is usually distributed at Roundtables in May and June.

During the summer months, most Packs hold their Annual Pack Planning meeting to set out next year's themes and activities.

Some things to keep in mind for you pack's planning meeting:

- The more people who attend, the better. Invite all leaders and parents, especially last years Tiger partners. Publicize it,
- Have a good supply of Program Helps—as many as your Pack budget can stand. Use the yellow pages—the Program Planning Insert in the center as a guide.
- Spread the work and responsibilities around. The more people who do things and lead activities, the better your pack will run. A sure way to burn-out leaders is to have the same few people lead everything.
- Set some goals for your pack. How many pack activities? How many new dens? Will you earn the Summer Time Pack Award? The Quality Unit Award? How many boys will advance a rank? How many dens will earn the National Den Award?

Make the meeting fun. Have you tried holding your planning meeting at a back yard barbeque or a breakfast meeting? Make it special.

PACK ANNUAL PLANNING

Packs are, or will be, planning their programs for the coming year. Program Helps are ly in stock at the Scout Shop. Council Calendars are available at Roundtables. Get them and use them.

Get as many people as possible involved in the planning. Hold it on the day and time when most will attend. Consider a breakfast meeting or a weekend barbeque. Mail postcards, and phone or email everyone.

Here are some things to consider in your planning.

- Keep your pack financially sound. Make sure you plan a budget at the same time. Ensure that you have a full financial team: your treasurer, money raising chair, pop-corn chair and Friends of Scouting representative. Encourage them to work as a team.
- Plan your roundup. You will need a roundup chair, and probably a new Tiger Den Leader or two. Who will check with the schools or church where you recruit to set the dates for school visits and roundup nights. Assign several people to attend the District Roundup Kickoff in late August. The more who attend, the better chances you will have to recruit the leaders you will need next fall.
- Plan a special event for every month. A visit, a party, a service project . These maintain excitement from month to month and take a load off den leaders. Assign one or more parents (NOT den leaders) to head up each event. A successful method is to allow parents to choose the month and event on a first-come-first-served basis. Their jobs are to arrange the details, set up any transportation needed, process tour permits and lead the event. These are once-a-year jobs that shouldn't overtax most parents, but are very important to the success of your pack's program.
- Don't let anyone leave until every boy has a parent doing something important for his pack. Every boy should have the chance to be proud of his mom or dad.
- Invent jobs if you have to. Announce (with appropriate fanfare) all the names at your next pack meeting and print your schedule - with names - in your pack news letter. If you don't have a pack news letter, there is another job!

Save a few jobs for the new parents you will recruit in September.

CUB SCOUT PROGRAM PLANNING

The most important responsibility that leaders have in Cub Scouting is program planning. The quality of the Cub Scout experience each boy receives will depend on how leaders schedule and carry out the essential planning procedures. Den Leaders spend the greatest amount of time directly with the boys. Pack leaders provide the material and help Den Leaders to make their job easier, more enjoyable, and meaningful. Pack Committee members should be familiar with the planning process, to know where they fit in, and what tools to use.

KEEP THESE IN MIND:

There are some basic ideas which you need to understand before you start planning:

- Cub Scouting is a year-round, 12-month program
- Cub Scouting has enough variables to meet the needs and desires of any boy, any place.

- The Cub Scout program is built around a monthly theme for Cub Scouts, a big idea for Tigers and Webelos Dens use an activity badge area for their monthly program.
- The Cub Scout program should have variety, action, and purpose.
- The program must be fun for both boys and their families.

THEMES:

Cub Scouting's recommended planning system is based on themes, one for each month. Themes help to achieve Cub Scouting's purposes; to keep all the dens active, vigorous, and working on meaningful projects during the month. They assure a well-planned, more interesting pack meeting as the big climax of the month. A good monthly theme should have:

- Boy Appeal
- Boy Learning
- A Variety of Activities

PROGRAM RESOURCES:

Specific ideas for program planning can be found in the wide variety of Cub literature available to all pack leaders. The Pack Library is a useful source. Also refer to ideas received at Roundtables, Pow Wows and training courses.

SPECIFIC TIPS: Take advantage of special events like Scouting for Food, Good Will Good Turn, local parades, Scout Nights at the Ball Game, hockey or basketball game. Plan several tours or pack field trips throughout the year and at least one pack camping trip.

FOUR STEPS IN PLANNING:

There is a proven plan and procedure which brings success. The process consists of the following four steps:

1. Annual Planning Conference -- long range look at all program possibilities. Held as soon as Program Helps become available, usually in April or May, to make general plans for the next 12 months.
2. Monthly Pack Leader's Meeting (or Committee Meeting) -- to firm up plans for this month's pack meeting and make specific plans for the pack meeting next month.
3. Den Leader Coach/Den Leader Meeting -- a monthly meeting to help plan den meetings.
4. Den Chief's Meeting -- a monthly meeting with Cubmaster or Assistant, to help prepare them to assist the Den Leaders. Webelos Den Chiefs meet with their own Webelos Leader.

-- *Last Frontier Pow Wow Book*

RESOURCE BOOKS FOR PLANNING

Cub Scout Program Helps 2002—2003
 Council 2000—2002 Planning Calendar
 How-To Book
 Pow Wow Books
 Sports and Academics