PLAN THE IDEAL YEAR OF SCOUTING FOR

BOY SCOUTS

2014-2015

unparalleled experiences for more youth
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*Check out our website at [www.mac-bsa.org](http://www.mac-bsa.org) for the most up-to-date information, activities & forms.*
This guide and all the resources within, can be found online at www.mac-bas.org/JourneyToExcellence.

Mid-America Council Vision

Unparalleled experiences for more youth.

Unparalleled experiences create value, enthusiasm, robust growth and retention of program participants.
Dear Leader:

Thank you for your personal commitment to Scouting in our communities. It takes time, energy, money and passion from thousands of volunteers and supporters to make Scouting in our area so worthwhile, and the Scouts appreciate it.

At the Mid-America Council, our mission is to prepare young people to make ethical choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law. It is our vision to provide unparalleled programs for more youth.

Parents will say Scouting in Mid-America Council offers their family fun and adventurous things to do. This fun and adventure will help their son or daughter develop leadership skills and values important to good citizenship and service to others.

We expect the Mid-America Council to be among the best in the B.S.A., to improve the quality of our program yearly and to create a positive atmosphere for our Scouts. If we succeed, our Scouting program will provide our members with advantages that will help them today and in the future. This starts by establishing a course of action through planning your Ideal Year of Scouting.

In order to provide the best possible program and meet the expectations of the families in Scouting, each unit is expected to plan their Ideal Year of Scouting to achieve the Journey to Excellence Award.

In the following pages, you will find the tools and resources you need to accomplish this and deliver Scouting to our families.

Yours in Scouting,

Eric, Chris, Steve, & Bob
Why use this guide?

The units that plan, promote and execute their Ideal Year of Scouting, offer unparalleled experiences for more youth, and are recognized in the Journey to Excellence program.

How would you like:

• A stronger program for your boys?
• More parental involvement?
• More boys camping?
• More boys in your troop?
• More funding with less time spent fundraising?
• To eliminate out-of-pocket expenses for your parents?
• Enough money to do all of your activities?
• Scouting to be simpler, easier and more fun?

You can provide a year-round, quality Scouting program by following the steps in this guide. Provide unparalleled experiences for more Scouts and earn the Journey to Excellence Award, along the way.

Journey to Excellence Recognition Program

The Journey to Excellence (JTE) is the tool we’ve adopted to measure the quality of the Scouting program in our council. A troop that plans their Ideal Year of Scouting, based on goals and standards set forth in the Journey to Excellence, can be confident they’re delivering a quality program through trained leaders.

How to Stay on the Journey to Excellence

We all need to live and breathe the JTE. It makes Scouting stronger.

• Every time we are working on a Scouting project, activity, meeting, etc. we need to think back about how it relates to the JTE.
• This is important. We want you on board and we want you to be dedicated to the journey as much as we are. You are an essential part of our council and can help us have the strongest Scouting program ever!
Achievement of anything starts with a vision.

Use the criteria for the Journey to Excellence Award as your vision. There is separate criteria for Cub Scout packs and Boy Scout troops. We’ve provided resources for each in separate versions of this guide.

Leaders and Scouts will find all the items they need to plan their year, with a few resources such as award forms and camp facility information at the very end of this guide.

During the spring of 2014, work through this book to set your goals and make your plans. By June 30 you should have a clear picture of the program you will offer from August 2014 through the summer of 2015.

If you get stuck along the way, remember to consult the Mid-America Council website, www.mac-bsa.org, for more resources and contact information for those who can help you. Our council and district commissioner staff is dedicated to giving each unit the opportunities they need to be successful. You can reach out to these experienced Scouters at Roundtables, training sessions and district and council events. They are eager to help you be successful, so even if you don’t need their help planning, keep them informed of your plan so they may be your ally along the way.

www.mac-bsa.org/JourneyToExcellence

The 6 Steps of the Ideal Year of Scouting:

1. **Plan:** Work your way through this guide and map out the advancements, activities, camping and training you'll need for your Ideal Year of Scouting.

2. **Fund:** Determine the expenses from all the activities, advancements, camping and training your unit wants to do, then decide how much fundraising your unit must do to cover those expenses.

3. **Grow:** When you have a good plan, communicate it to your current and potential Scouts to engage more boys in the Scouting program, along with their parents to help make it all happen.

4. **Train:** Plan to promote trainings to your current and new leaders; every Scout deserves a trained leader.

5. **Re-charter:** Re-register your unit, in October / November of 2013 with the Council with new youth and parents who have joined to update your roster.

6. **Assess:** Use the Journey to Excellence worksheet to measure the success of your plan and your year.
PLAN YOUR PROGRAM

Look at pages 12 through 25 to work through the following steps.

a. Use the Troop Program Features, Volumes I, II, and III to make planning easier
b. Determine what advancements each Scout will need for next rank
c. Decide what activities the Scouts will do
d. Decide what camping opportunities to participate in
e. Plan to do at least one charter partner service project and Scouting for Food
f. Plan the meeting dates
h. Recognize those Scouts who advance

Visit www.mac-bsa.org for a complete list of events and use the sample on page 9.

FUND YOUR PROGRAM

Complete the budget planning worksheet on page 35, by May 31, 2013, to find the total cost of your program and how to fund it.

a. Determine expenses
b. Determine income
c. Determine how much popcorn your troop needs to sell to cover expenses.

GROW YOUR PROGRAM

Look at pages 36 through 50 to gain tips and resources for recruiting.

a. Set a goal and plan to recruit new members from Cub Scout packs.
b. Utilize peer-to-peer recruitment and have Scouts bring their non-Scout friends to meetings and activities.
c. Plan to recruit parents to help the troop.

TRAIN YOUR LEADERS

Every Scout deserves a trained leader. On pages 51 through 57 you’ll find

a. What it means to be a trained leader
b. Information on basic leader training (the bare minimum)
c. Information on supplemental training (fun, extra info)
d. Information on district roundtables
RE - CHARTERING

Each year, every troop must re-charter. This process works as a checks and balances system to ensure the Boy Scouts of America has an accurate roster of youth and adults. Make sure your re-charter paperwork is submitted, with all signatures and fees, at your district’s December roundtable.

ASSESS YOUR SUCCESS

Fill out the Journey to Excellence form.
HOW TO PLAN & SCHEDULE YOUR TROOP’S ADVANCEMENTS, ACTIVITIES & MEETINGS

There are many helpful tools to assist you with planning. The Troop Program Features Volumes I, II & III, are invaluable resources. Here are some highlights, but you'll find much more in these volumes to assist you and the Scouts in planning your Ideal Year of Boy Scouting. You may purchase the Troop Program Features volumes at the Gottschalk Scout Shop our Sioux City Scout Shop or download plans for free at www.Scouting.org and click on Volunteer, then ScoutSource.

In the following pages, you'll find worksheets to help you build a Patrol Leader’s Council, identify what ranks your current Scouts are, what they need to work on to advance one rank next year, and what activities your troop will do to achieve these ranks and the Ideal Year of Scouting.

Each Patrol should elect a Patrol Leader (elections are usually held twice a year) to serve on the Patrol Leader’s Council.

Troop Program Planning Conference:
Once your Patrol Leader’s Council is formed, the Troop should hold a program planning conference. Use the calendar on page 9 to record your troop’s schedule of activities and meetings. Also, remember to check the calendar on the Mid-America Council website http://www.mac-bsa.org/calendar.aspx for more important dates and events.

Advancement tracking and recognition
It is important to regularly recognize achievements and advancement for the Scouts. This is what keeps boys in Scouting.

Monthly submission of earned achievements is vital. As boys start working on various ranks, especially the Eagle rank, it is vital for the Scout’s BSA record to be up-to-date, so the processing of his rank paperwork can occur in a timely manner.

Monthly courts of honor are encouraged, however most troops hold them quarterly. Your winter court of honor is a great time to hold a Friends of Scouting presentation. The unit benefits from the funds raised at the Council level, and everyone in the unit should be given the opportunity to give to the campaign.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please visit www.mac-bsa.org or call Scouter Services at 402.431.9BSA (9272)
BOY SCOUT ACTIVITY PLANNING GUIDE

Troop #__________
Organizer: __________________________________________

Use this tool to schedule activities, plan meeting dates, and determine a budget for any costs that may be associated with certain events. Use the calendar on the Mid-America Council website (www.mac-bsa.org and click on the calendar tab) to find other important dates and events for your Scouts! Events marked with an asterisk* are council-supported events and can be found on our calendar. Events marked with double asterisks** are district-supported events and can either be found on our calendar, or contact your district executive.

Make sure to include these key events:

- Scouting for Food (April 5 & 12, 2014)*
- Summer Camp (dates online at www.mac-bsa.org/Boy ScoutCamp)*
- OA Spring Conclave (May 2-4, 2014 at Camp Cedars)*
- National Youth Leadership Training (July 27 – August 2, 2014 at Little Sioux Scout Ranch)*
- OA Summer Conclave (August 8-10, 2014 at Little Sioux Scout Ranch)*
- NBZ Tribal Festival (August 15-16, 2014 at Camp Cedars)*
- Top Shot (September 19, 2014 at Little Sioux Scout Ranch)*
- Popcorn Campaign (September 27 - October 26, 2014)*
- Jubilee (October 10-12, 2014)*
- OA Vigil Weekend (October 24, 2014 at Little Sioux Scout Ranch)*
- University of Scouting (November 1, 2014)*
- Re-Charter & Journey to Excellence Assessment Deadline (December roundtable)
- OA Winter Banquet (December 6, 2014)*
- Council Klondike Derby (January 16-18, 2015 at LSSR)*
- Pre-camp leaders’ meetings: Camp Cedars, March 14, 2015*
- Scouting for Food (April 11 & 18, 2015)*
- Summer Camp Week 1: June 7 – 13, 2015*
- Summer Camp Week 2: June 14-20, 2015*
- Summer Camp Week 3: June 21-27, 2015*
- Summer Camp Week 4: June 28 – July 4, 2015*
- Summer Camp Week 5: July 5 – 10, 2015*
- Summer Camp Week 6: July 12 – 18, 2015*
- Summer Camp Week 7: July 19-25, 2015*
- National Youth Leadership Training (July 26 – August 1, 2015)*
- World Jamboree (July 28- August 8, 2015 in Japan)
- National Order of the Arrow Conference (August 3-8, 2015 at Michigan State University)*
- University of Scouting (November 7, 2015)*
“The more responsibility the Scoutmaster gives his patrol leaders, the more they will respond.” – Robert Baden-Powell

The Patrol Leaders are elected by their patrols to represent them at the Patrol Leaders’ Council (PLC) meetings. A patrol leader is a member of the patrol leaders’ council, and serves as the voice of their patrol members.

The members of each patrol elect one of their own to serve as patrol leader. The troop determines the requirements for patrol leaders, such as rank and age. To give more youths the opportunity to lead, most troops elect patrol leaders twice a year. Some may have elections more often.

Through the Patrol Leaders’ Council, patrols share the responsibility for the patrol’s success. They gain confidence by serving in positions of leadership. Each Patrol is always represented at each monthly PLC meeting. If the Patrol Leader is not able to attend, the Assistant Patrol Leader or another Scout from the patrol will attend the PLC. The Patrol Leaders present the ideas and concerns of their patrols and in turn share the decisions of the patrol leaders’ council with their patrol members.
The Patrol Leaders’ Council Is Made Up Of The Following Positions:

• **Senior Patrol Leader**
  Runs all troop meetings, events, activities, and the annual program planning conference; runs the Patrol Leaders’ Council meetings; appoints other troop junior leaders with the advice and counsel of the Scoutmaster; assigns duties and responsibilities to junior leaders; assists the Scoutmaster with junior leader training.

• **Assistant Senior Patrol Leader**
  Helps the senior patrol leader with leading meetings; helps train and supervise the troop scribe, quartermaster, instructor, librarian, historian, and chaplain’s aide; serves as a member of the patrol leaders’ council.

• **Troop Guide**
  Introduces new Scouts to troop operations; encourages good behavior form all Scouts and resolves conflicts; helps new Scouts earn First Class rank in their first year; teaches basic Scout skills; coaches the patrol leader of the new-Scout patrol on his duties; assists the assistant Scoutmaster with training; counsels individual Scouts on Scouting challenge.

• **Patrol Leader Position**
  Plan and lead patrol meetings and activities; keep patrol members informed; assign each patrol member a specific duty; represent his patrol at all patrol leaders’ council meetings and the annual program planning conference; prepare the patrol to participate in all troop activities; work with other troop leaders to make the troop run well; know the abilities of each patrol member.

• **Scribe**
  Attends and keeps a log of patrol leaders’ council meetings; records individual Scout attendance and dues payments; records individual Scout advancement progress; works with the troop committee member responsible for records and finance.

The PLC is guided by the Scoutmaster and has direct support by key Troop Committee members to ensure the unit has monthly boards of review and quarterly courts of honor.

“The object of the patrol method is not so much saving the Scoutmaster trouble as to give responsibility to the boy.”

– Robert Baden-Powell
This is the step where your troop program comes alive. The success of this conference began when you, the Scoutmaster, prepared your senior patrol leader. Be alert throughout the conference to help out the senior patrol leader. Don’t wait for him to fail, but be careful not to take over for him. Careful, non intrusive coaching will help your senior patrol leader build confidence. Share your leadership with them.

Who attends the conference?
The troop’s annual planning conference is attended by the Scoutmaster, assistant Scoutmaster for the new-Scout patrol, assistant Scoutmaster for the Venture patrol, senior patrol leader, assistant senior patrol leader, patrol leaders, and troop guide.

Physical Arrangements
Careful planning should ensure that this planning conference is a first-class experience for your youth leaders. Pick a location that would be special to your Scouts, possibly one offering opportunities for other activities, such as swimming, boating, etc. You can make it a weekend experience, although the conference is easily completed in a day.

Whichever you do, don’t involve the youth leaders in a lot of housekeeping chores that distract them from the primary purpose of planning the troop program. Consider using other troop adults to cook and clean up; let your patrol leaders’ council concentrate on the task at hand. Make sure the facilities are suited for a conference. Is ventilation good? Is there sufficient lighting? Are the chairs comfortable? Are there tables to work on? Is there a way to hang calendars on the wall? Use the checklist on page 9 to make sure your facilities will work.

Setting up the conference facility should have been previously assigned to members of the patrol leaders’ council. A checkup by the senior patrol leader prior to the conference ensures that nothing is forgotten.

Follow the agenda. When directing a session, your senior patrol leader should be aware that it’s easy to get sidetracked. If the group starts to drift away from the agenda, a gentle nudge from you may be in order to put them back on course.

Remember the conference ground rules:
1. The Senior Patrol Leader presides.
2. Each event and program is voted on.
3. The majority rules.

(Note: No time limits have been placed on the agenda, but working sessions should last no longer than 45 minutes without a break.)
ANNUAL TROOP PROGRAM PLANNING CONFERENCE CHECKLIST

Literature
- Troop Program Features, Volume I, No. 33110
- Troop Program Features, Volume II, No. 33111
- Troop Program Features, Volume III, No. 33112
- Troop Resources for Scout Troops and Varsity Teams, No. 33588
- Scoutmaster Handbook, No. 33009
- Boy Scout Handbook, No. 33105
- Patrol Leader Handbook, No. 32502
- Program features from Scouting magazine
- Scouting magazines
- Boy’s Life magazines
- Troop Program Planning Chart
- District/council calendar
- School calendar
- Chartered organization calendar
- Community calendar
- Information on council and district events
- Complete copy of next month’s program feature, for the final part of the workshop (one per participant)
- Troop Resource Surveys completed by parents and troop leadership
- Troop/Team Record Book, No. 34510
- Troop Advancement Chart, No. 34506

Program Supplies
- All Aboard activity (supplies needed)
- Game (supplies needed)
- Flip-chart stand and pad(s)
- Twelve large calendar pages
- Felt-tip markers
- Writing pads for participants
- Pens and pencils
- Thumbtacks
- Masking tape
- Extension Cord

Food/Refreshments
- Refreshments for morning and afternoon breaks
- Additional food (lunch, etc.)

Conference Facility Setup
- Tables set in horseshoe or square, depending on number of people
- Flip chart stand placed for easy viewing and use
- Calendar pages hung on wall
- Troop Program Planning Chart hung at front center of room
- Table at front of room for resource material
I. OPENING ACTIVITY - SCOUTMASTER
Conduct All Aboard or other team-building activity. This helps foster a spirit of working together to solve a common problem.

II. REVIEW CONFERENCE GROUND RULES - SENIOR PATROL LEADER
A. Write down the conference objectives:
   1. To decide on troop goals for the coming year
   2. To develop a program that represents ideas from the entire troop.
B. Review ground rules
   1. The senior patrol leader presides,
   2. Each event and program will be voted on.
   3. The majority rules.

III. DEVELOP TROOP GOALS - SCOUTMASTER
A. The Scoutmaster leads a discussion on goals for the coming year. These could deal with such topics as advancement, service, or troop money earning. (These are the same goals discussed earlier with the troop committee and senior patrol leader.)

B. The patrol leaders' council votes to approve the goals.

IV. CONSIDER MAJOR EVENTS - SENIOR PATROL LEADER
A. Review dates for items such as these:
   1. Scouting shows
   2. Camporees
   3. Summer camp
   4. Special troop events
   5. Good Turn
   6. Patrol suggestions for special activities

B. Vote on events. (Delete from the calendar any activities the troop will not participate in.)
C. Insert events on the Troop Program Planning Chart.
D. Backdate necessary preparation time for each event.

V. GAME BREAK

VI. DISCUSS PATROL SUGGESTIONS FOR PROGRAM FEATURES
A. Discuss the program features suggested for the coming year.
B. Will they meet the goals of the troop
C. What are the advancement opportunities?
D. Decide where program features best fit into the calendar.
E. Vote on the final list of program features.
VII. LUNCH OR GAME BREAK

VIII. SCHEDULE SPECIAL TROOP ACTIVITIES
   A. Decide on a schedule for the following:
      1. Board of review
      2. Courts of honor.
      3. Recruitment night(s)
      4. Webelos Scout graduation
   B. Add these dates to the Troop Program Planning Chart.

IX. FINALIZE THE TROOP PROGRAM PLANNING CHART
   Put the Troop Program Planning Chart into final form for presentation to the troop committee.

X. GAME BREAK

XI. MONTHLY PROGRAM PLANNING
   Plan next month’s program.

XII. SCOUTMASTER’S MINUTE
# TROOP PLANNING WORKSHEET

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONTH</th>
<th>PROGRAM FEATURES</th>
<th>TROOP OUTDOOR/ CAMPING ACTIVITY</th>
<th>DISTRICT/ COUNCIL ACTIVITY</th>
<th>CHARTERED ORGANIZATION DATES / CHARTER RENEWAL / CHARTER PRESENTATION / SERVICE PROJECT</th>
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<th>BOARD OF REVIEW / COURT OF HONOR</th>
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What is advancement, and what role does it play in Scouting?

Education and fun are functions of the Scouting movement—as is the growth of our youth members and make up the basis of the advancement program. As the Scout meets certain requirements, he may advance in rank. The Scouting program is designed to help young people have an exciting and meaningful experience. A quality Scouting program strives for the following:

- Every young person achieves personal growth.
- Each individual learns by doing.
- Youth members progress at their own rate.
- All young people receive recognition for their individual accomplishments.
- Youth participants are encouraged to embrace Scouting ideals.

Millions of boys over 100+ years have experienced the Scouting program. The Boy Scout program focuses upon delivering knowledge through rank advancement. There are six ranks for Boy Scouts: Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life, and Eagle Scout. Levels of leadership and character are learned through advancement in the program.

Boy Scouts can learn about sports, crafts, science, trades, business and future careers as they earn merit badges. There are more than 100 merit badges. Any Boy Scout may earn any merit badge at any time. They don’t need to have had rank advancement to be eligible.

A complete list of BSA Merit Badges can be found at www.meritbadge.org. Boy Scouts and leaders can find registered Merit Badge Counselors to help them earn merit badges by visiting www.mac-bsa.org/bs_badge.aspx. Click on “Merit Badge Directory” to find a counselor near you!

You will also find a Scout Merit Badge Tracking form in the following pages, for Star, Life & Eagle Scouts. You can make copies of this form for each Scout or have them download it from the resources section at www.mac-bsa.org/JourneytoExcellence.

Eagle Scout Info

Download the Eagle project work book and Eagle Scout application online (www.mac-bsa.org)

Work with your Scoutmaster to complete Eagle Scout requirements and to get your application turned in.
Visit www.mac-bsa.org/bs_badge.aspx to find a merit badge.

### STAR

**STAR MERIT BADGES:** EARN A TOTAL OF SIX (6) INCLUDING FOUR (4) FROM THE REQUIRED LIST FOR EAGLE.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>DATE BECAME A SCOUT:</th>
<th>DATE (*REQUIRED BADGES FOR EAGLE)</th>
<th>DATE (2 ADDITIONAL, ANY MERIT BADGE)</th>
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<td>2ND CLASS DATE</td>
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<td>6-HOUR SERVICE PROJECT</td>
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<tr>
<td>1ST CLASS DATE</td>
<td>4.</td>
<td>STAR SCOUT</td>
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**DATE:**

### LIFE

**LIFE MERIT BADGES:** EARN A TOTAL OF 11 INCLUDING SEVEN (7) FROM THE REQUIRED LIST FOR EAGLE *(RECORD THE FOUR MERIT BADGES EARNED FOR STAR ALSO)*.

**RECORD (3 MORE REQ. PLUS THE 4 REQ. BADGES EARNED FOR STAR) + 2 ADDITIONAL, ANY MERIT BADGE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE (REQ. MERIT BADGES FOR EAGLE)</th>
<th>DATE (REQ. MERIT BADGES FOR EAGLE)</th>
<th>DATE (RECORD 2 FOR STAR &amp; 2 ADDITIONAL)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>5.</td>
<td>1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>6.</td>
<td>2.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>7.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.</td>
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</table>

**6-HOUR SERVICE PROJECT**

**DATE:**

### EAGLE

**REQUIREMENT 3. EARN A TOTAL OF 21 MERIT BADGES** *(REQUIRED MERIT BADGES ARE LISTED. LIST THE MONTH, DAY AND YEAR EACH MERIT BADGE WAS EARNED. RECORD EVERY MERIT BADGE EARNED).*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MERIT BADGE</th>
<th>DATE EARNED</th>
<th>MERIT BADGE</th>
<th>DATE EARNED</th>
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<th>DATE EARNED</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. CAMPING</td>
<td>11.</td>
<td>8. FIRST AID</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. CITIZENSHIP IN THE COMMUNITY</td>
<td></td>
<td>9. PERSONAL FITNESS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. CITIZENSHIP IN THE NATION</td>
<td></td>
<td>10. PERSONAL MANAGEMENT</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. CITIZENSHIP IN THE WORLD</td>
<td></td>
<td>11. LIFESAVING OR EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. COMMUNICATIONS</td>
<td></td>
<td>12. SWIMMING OR HIKING OR CYCLING</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE</td>
<td></td>
<td>13. COOKING</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. FAMILY LIFE</td>
<td></td>
<td>14.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cross out badges not earned. If a crossed out badge was earned, it may be reentered in 12 through 21. Four of these required merit badges were earned for the Star Scout Award and three more for the Life Scout Award. All merit badges earned beyond the 21 for Eagle Scout should be entered on the *Eagle Palms tracking record*.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scout Name</th>
<th>Scout</th>
<th>Tenderfoot</th>
<th>2nd Class</th>
<th>1st Class</th>
<th>Star</th>
<th>Life</th>
<th>Eagle</th>
<th>Eagle Palm Bronze</th>
<th>Eagle Palm Gold</th>
<th>Eagle Palm Silver</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(5 Extra Merit Badges)</td>
<td>(10 Extra Merit Badges)</td>
<td>(15 Extra Merit Badges)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Eagle Scout Info**

“It’s not so important who starts the game but who finishes it.”
– Legendary Hall of Fame Basketball Coach, John Wooden

Since its inception in 1911, the term “Eagle Scout” has been synonymous with the pinnacle of Scouting. It’s even found its way into the vernacular to mean “a straight-arrow and self-reliant man” (Merriam-Webster Online). More than two million Scouts—only 4% of overall Scout membership—have claimed the rank of Eagle Scout. Yet it’s the overwhelming vision and desire of nearly every Scout.

As soon as a Scout earns the Life rank, they can start envisioning their project. Life Scouts can download the Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook from [www.mac-bsa.org/boyscouts](http://www.mac-bsa.org/boyscouts) and click on “Eagle Scouts”.

Scouts should work closely with their Troop leaders to keep them informed of their progress and make sure they are following the proper steps to ensure they accomplish their goals.

**Eagle Scout Process**

**Step 1:**  Fill out application and get the appropriate signatures
(Scoutmaster, committee chair, applicant, and district eagle chair signatures)

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**Step 2:**  District submits approved application to council.
The application and dates are checked and verified.
Time: 1-2 weeks

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**Step 3:**  Approved Eagle application is sent back to district.
The district then sets up a board of review. Time: 3-6 weeks from the time the district receives until the interview

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**Step 4:**  Application is sent by the council to the National BS. Time: 1-2 weeks from submission

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**Step 5:**  National approves and sends Eagle certificate and pocket card to the council.
Time 4-6 weeks from submission

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**Step 6:**  Council records the certificate and mails out packet to the scoutmaster. Time: 1-2 weeks
The Journey to Excellence has standards set for Boy Scout Troops to help increase and encourage service in their community. In the past, this has been known as “Good Turn for America” but with the adoption of the Journey to Excellence program, the term has changed to “Journey to Excellence Service Hours.”

Service Projects Objective:
The troop participates in service projects, with one benefiting your chartering organization. The projects & hours are logged on the Journey to Excellence website.
- Bronze: Participate in four service projects.
- Silver: Participate in five service projects.
- Gold: Participate in six service projects.

Scouting for Food
Scouting for Food is an annual council-wide service project aimed at addressing the issue of hunger in our communities. Through a partnership with ConAgra Foods Foundation, Hy-Vee, the Food Bank of Siouxland, and the Food Bank for the Heartland, Scouts collected 197,596 food items for the 2013 year. The 2014 dates are April 5 and April 12. The dates in 2015 will be April 11 and 18.

How do we get involved?
Door hangers will be available at your March roundtable. We encourage each Scout to collect at least 25 items of food.

Where do we take the food once it’s collected?
Packs and troops in the Omaha area can take their food to their local Hy-Vee for collection. Siouxland packs and troops can take their food items to the Food Bank of Siouxland. In other areas, please check with your Scouting for Food chair for local food pantry or church partners.

Recommended Partners for Service Projects
The Mid-America Council has teamed up with several local agencies that we recommend Boy Scout Troops to consider when planning a service project.
- Salvation Army – www.salvationarmyusa.com
- Habitat for Humanity – www.habitat.org
- Keep Omaha Beautiful – www.keepomahabeautiful.org

Ideas for Service Projects
Remember to check with your Troop’s chartered organization to see if they have any projects that the Troop can help with.

Other Ideas
- Assist a Cub Scout Pack with their Pinewood Derby or Arrow of Light presentation
- Teach a Cub Scout Pack camping or cooking skills, or flag etiquette.
- Place American flags on grave sites for Memorial Day.
- Conduct a CPR training event.
How to Log Your Service Hours

You can now enter your Pack’s service hours at www.scouting.org/jte.

• Look for the “Service Project” area of the screen. There you can find the link to log your hours, information for first time users and ideas and tips for a successful service project.
• To enter your service hours click on “service hours website” link.
• Choose “New User Click Here” or enter in your existing username and password.

If you have any questions, please check with your District Executive.

Got a MyScouting account? You can also reach the Journey to Excellence service hour website by clicking on the Journey to Excellence Information link on the left side of the screen in the “Council Tools” section. Once you click the link you will be directed to www.scouting.org/jte and can follow the same procedures as listed above.
Boy Scout Summer Camp

Hit the ground running this summer with an action-packed adventure at Camp Cedars! Climbing, hiking, shooting, fishing, horse riding, boating and other advancement opportunities are awaiting you right around the corner! Spend your days challenging yourself to reach new heights and spend your nights under starry skies. Don’t get left behind in 2014! Camp Cedars contains some of the best facilities in the country:

- Swimming pool
- Equestrian center
- COPE course
- Climbing tower
- Shooting sports arena
- Mountain-boarding
- Shotgun range
- Dining hall
- Trading post
- Nature center
- Action Archery
- NEW ATVs
- Aviation
- Blacksmith Forge
- Order of the Arrow
- Nani-Ba-Zhu
- NEW Stand Up Paddleboards

During Boy Scout Summer Camp

Camp Cedars offers leader training to include:

- Outdoor Leader Skills program
- CPR Certification
- Youth Protection
- Climb on Safely
- Safety Afloat
- Safe Swim Defense

For more information contact:
Camping Director
Phone: 402.431.9BSA (9272)

Camp Cedars
Phone: (402)628.8146
CampCedars@mac-bsa.org (seasonal)
Visit www.mac-bsa.org/camping year-round!

2014 Boy Scout Summer Camp
Week 1    June 8-14
Week 2    June 15-21
Week 3    June 22-28
Week 4    June 29-July 5
Week 5    July 6-12
Week 6    July 13-19

High Adventure

Philmont Scout Ranch – National BSA High Adventure Base
The Mid-America Scout Council makes yearly reservations for a council contingency to Philmont Scout Ranch. This trek is for youth ages 14 and up. The Council is normally approved to fill 10 crews of 12 people (2-4 of which are adults). The applications and fees are available at the beginning of each year on-line at www.mac-bsa.org in the “Camping” section under the “High Adventure” tab. Applications will NOT be accepted after April 1 of the year prior to the reservation.
For more information about currently scheduled high adventure camps and any future developments, continue to check www.mac-bsa.org in the “Camping” section under the “High Adventure” tab, or contact the Camp Director at (402)431-9BSA(9272).

MAC High Adventure Committee
Comprised of volunteers dedicated to promoting safe, fun High Adventure and Scouting Expedition opportunities to units in the Mid America Council, this group of volunteers wants to help you plan, promote, and facilitate your units High Adventure trek.

Already a veteran of several High Adventure treks? We can use your expertise to guide and mentor leaders who need the help of experienced Scouters. If you have youth who are looking for adventure or would like to lead a high adventure trek, contact the Mid-America Council Program Director at (402)431-9BSA(9272).

The committee also maintains a library of maps, guidebooks, field guides, and past trip reports that can serve as resources for your next High Adventure. To access these resources, contact Scouter Services at (402)431-9BSA(9272).
FUND YOUR PROGRAM

Imagine kicking off your Scouting year with a 12-month program and not collecting any money from Scouting families! Troops can pay for the entire program they want to do without any out-of-pocket expenses selling popcorn.

Your troop’s Ideal Year of Scouting (IYOS) could require more sales which is why we include the IYOS Budget Planner sample worksheet on the next page. You can also go to http://www.macbsa.org/Iyos_program.aspx to get the fillable version of this worksheet. Learn a little more about popcorn here and use the worksheet to determine how popcorn sales will achieve your pack’s Ideal Year of Scouting.

5 Steps For A Successful Popcorn Campaign

1. Establish an annual plan and budget using the Ideal Year of Scouting worksheet online (sample on page 31). With input from your Scouts, parents, and leaders you can use this guide to write your budget.

2. Set a troop popcorn sale goal and break down to a per-Scout-goal based on your IYOS budget.

3. Put together an exciting incentive program for your troop along with the prize program. For example, sell $100.00 and apply a pie in your Scoutmaster’s face or a throw a pizza party for the highest selling patrol!

4. Conduct a FUN Troop popcorn kick-off to communicate the goals to families.

5. Utilize all sales methods available to make sure your troop and Scouts hit their goals.
   • Take orders
   • Show & sell the products
   • Online sales
   • Show & deliver the products
   • Parents selling at work help their Scouts hit their goal
   • Store front sales: talk to your local businesses to see if you can sell there.
Camp Cards

Go to camp for FREE! The Mid-America Council is offering a new fundraising opportunity for packs, troops & crews so that they may raise funds to help pay for camp!

In addition to 50% commission on any Camp Cards sold, Scouts that sell 65-200 or more cards will qualify for a Camp Scholarship!

Campaign Details
Campaign runs from March roundtable until April 30. Deadline for all forms and payments to be turned in is May roundtable.

Scholarships have no cash value, they may not be transferred to another Scout or camp. Scholarships can only be used for Mid-America Council camps. Scholarships must be used during the same year they were earned.

Camp Cedars Boy Scout Summer Camp – Sell 200 cards
Many Scouts enjoy summer camp the most. It provides numerous opportunities for Scouts to earn merit badges along their advancement trail. Some activities Scouts can do while camping include: swimming, hiking, fishing, boating, rock climbing and hanging out around a campfire. Scouts in the Mid-America Council do this, and more!

Scouts must sell 200 cards to receive a Camp Cedars summer camp scholarship. Camp scholarships may not be used for adult registrations. The early bird camp registration discount deadline is April 11, 2014. The Mid-America Council is not responsible for any late fees. If a Scout has not qualified by this date, but is planning to, please register and you will receive a refund for the amount at a later date if qualifying amount is reached, or you can register late and cover any associated late fees.

How does my troop get camp cards?
All camp cards and payments must be turned in with a deposit form specifying whether or not the Scout qualifies for a camp scholarship. Cards and payments will only be accepted at Scouter Services at the Durham Scout Center located at 12401 West Maple Road in Omaha, Nebraska. Scouter Services is open 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. Scouter Services is closed when the Durham Scout Center building is closed for holidays.

You MUST turn in your Scout Report and your original unit receipt in order to receive credit for any Camp Scholarship. These forms can be found online at www.mac-bsa.org. Restrictions apply.

To reserve Camp Cards for your unit or Scout, please contact Erin Glidden at 402-514-3028 or erin.glidden@scouting.org. Camp cards will be available for pick-up at your March roundtable.
Investment in Character

The Mid-America Council operates as a non-profit organization, to support all the packs, troops, and crews in our service area.

The Investment in Character Campaign helps fund the Scouting program. This campaign is an opportunity for communities, businesses and families to support the Scouting movement for over 20,000 youth in Nebraska, Iowa and South Dakota. The annual campaign raises approximately 30% of the operating budget each year. On average, $173 per youth is needed to provide programs for one year. Financial contributions to this campaign from Scouting families and outside organizations ensure that your council can offer unparalleled experiences to more youth.

The Investment in Character presentation explains to parents how our council is financed and educates them about our wonderful programs.

Please use the tips below to help your unit conduct an Investment in Character presentation. A video can be provided to you through your District Executive. It is also available online on our YouTube Channel, http://www.youtube.com/MACBoyScout.

Presentation tips
1. Introduce yourself.
2. Share the mission of the Mid-America Council.
3. Have Scouts help hand out investment cards/brochures to every adult present.
4. Tell everyone you will give them a few minutes to complete the form.
5. Explain the giving levels and the “thank you” gifts.
6. Play the video: http://tinyurl.com/l6c7htx
7. Have Scouts help collect the cards. Ask another adult to add up the pledges.
8. Thank everyone.
# TROOP IDEAL YEAR OF SCOUTING BUDGET

## Troop 100 PROGRAM BUDGET

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>August</th>
<th>September</th>
<th>October</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Activities</td>
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<td>Canoeing</td>
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<td>Camp Out</td>
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<tr>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>November</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
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<td>Service Project</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Camp Out</td>
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<td>Date</td>
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<tr>
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</tr>
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<tr>
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<td>Service Project</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
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<td>Camp Out</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Cost</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Registration &amp; Insurance</th>
<th>Unit Total Activity Cost &amp; Expenses</th>
<th>$0</th>
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<td>Scout Total Activity Cost &amp; Expenses</td>
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<td>Uniform</td>
<td>Camp Card Sales Goal</td>
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<td>Advancements</td>
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<td>Other Expenses</td>
<td>Number of Boys earning free camps</td>
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<td>Rank Book</td>
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<td>Unit Popcorn Sales Goal</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scout Sales Goal</td>
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</table>

Total Expenses: $0

The benefits of Scouting should be offered to every young man. The Boy Scout troop open house allows a troop to swing open its doors and roll out the red carpet to prospective youth. It provides a forum to show off Scouting activities and the troop’s accomplishments.

Hosting a troop open house is a five-step process that has been tried and proven in troops throughout the nation. Each of the following steps is vital to the event’s success:

1. Present a school rally to fifth- and sixth-graders. Have them complete the High Adventure Survey.
2. Email or mail the parents of interested youth a personal invitation to the troop open house.
3. Follow the invitation with a telephone call to the parents.
4. Host the troop open house for youth and their parents.
5. Organize a troop or district activity to involve new Scouts right away.

When thinking of different recruitment ideas for your unit, it is best if you create a Unit Information Sheet to include meeting dates, times, and places; a pack calendar; a list of leaders’ contact information; other information about events and activities. Use the following pages as resources to grow your unit.

As you plan your Ideal Year of Scouting, you should be sharing your fantastic plans with your current Scouts and encouraging them to bring their friends.

The Journey to Excellence is based on the models of a successful unit, and a successful unit grows each year. Making the program more exciting for the boys, and creating more leaders in our community. Plan to grow your program, not just by the number of youth, but engage their parents and families in your unit as well. Everyone benefits from Scouting.
SPRING TROOP OPEN HOUSE TIMETABLE

February

- Set a date and plan a troop open house for March.

March

- Conduct a school rally introducing fifth- and sixth-grade boys to Scouting.
- Follow up with interested youth by sending them a personal invitation to the troop open house and making a personal phone call to their parents.
- Hold the troop open house to welcome potential Boy Scouts and their parents.
- Plan a troop activity to get new Scouts involved with the troop shortly after they join.

April

- Sponsor a troop activity for new Scouts.
- Encourage each troop member to attend summer camp. Conduct summer camp orientation to encourage full troop involvement.

May

- Work closely with new Scouts and parents during their transition to the Boy Scout troop, ensuring their needs are met and that their move has been natural and fun.
- Work on rank advancement with new Scouts.

FALL TROOP OPEN HOUSE TIMETABLE

August

- Set a date and plan a troop open house for March.

September

- Conduct a school rally introducing 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th grade boys to Scouting. Have them complete the High Adventure Survey.
- Follow up with interested youth by sending them a personal invitation to the troop open house and making a personal phone call to their parents.
- Hold the troop open house to welcome potential Boy Scouts and their parents.
- Plan a troop activity to get new Scouts involved with the troop shortly after they join.

October

- Sponsor a Council, District, or troop activity for new Scouts.
- Encourage each troop member to attend winter camp. Conduct winter camp orientation to encourage full troop involvement.

November

- Work closely with new Scouts and parents, ensuring their needs are being met.
- Work on rank advancement with new Scouts.

December

- New scouts attend Council or District Winter Camp or unit campout/outdoor activity.
WAYS TO INVOLVE PARENTS IN THE TROOP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Volunteer Position</strong></th>
<th><strong>Description of Tasks to be Accomplished</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Activity Coordinator</strong></td>
<td>Promote attendance at council, district, and unit activities and events.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Advancement Chairperson</strong></td>
<td>Order, pick up, and package Scout recognition awards from the Scout shop or Council office.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Advancement Committee</strong></td>
<td>Maintain a Scout advancement display board.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Advancement Recorder</strong></td>
<td>Keep advancement records.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assistant Leader</strong></td>
<td>Assist as a second adult to sit in on Scoutmaster conference.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Board of Review Supporter</strong></td>
<td>Serve on a board of review.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Commissioner Support</strong></td>
<td>Serve one or more units as a liaison with the district/council.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Court of Honor Coordinator</strong></td>
<td>Coordinate the troop’s regular or special Eagle Court of Honor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Equipment Coordinator</strong></td>
<td>Provide tools for conservation projects.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>First Aider</strong></td>
<td>Keep unit first aid kit fully stocked.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Friends of Scouting Helper</strong></td>
<td>Chair or work on the FOS campaign in the unit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Logistics Coordinator</strong></td>
<td>Be responsible for unit meeting place logistics.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Medical Coordinator</strong></td>
<td>Keep a record of the health history of each Scout.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Meeting Host</strong></td>
<td>Make your home available for patrol meetings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Merit Badge Counselor</strong></td>
<td>Serve as a merit badge counselor. Sign up on <a href="http://www.mac-bsa.org">www.mac-bsa.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Open House Coordinator</strong></td>
<td>Coordinate a unit open house for new members.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Parent Initiative Coordinator</strong></td>
<td>Make sure new Scouts and families are welcomed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Publicity Chair</strong></td>
<td>Serve as unit publicity chairman.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Recharter Coordinator</strong></td>
<td>Assist with the troop/team rechartering process.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Recognition Committee</strong></td>
<td>Thank the spouses of the adult leaders, as well as parents and other adults who volunteer to help.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Recognition Coordinator</strong></td>
<td>Thank leaders with a note or token of appreciation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Service Project Committee</strong></td>
<td>Chair or assist with troop/team community service projects.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Skills Coordinator</strong></td>
<td>Arrange for special subject experts to visit troop/team meetings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Summer Camp Coordinator</strong></td>
<td>Promote adult leader and youth attendance at summer camp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Survey Coordinator</strong></td>
<td>Help collect a troop resource survey from all families.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: This is not a total list of available tasks a parent or other adult can assist with, but provides guidance in reviewing the unit’s needs.
Cooperation of schools is essential to gain access to Scout-age youth. Contact school administration to schedule presentation time during school with small groups of boys.

Plan the presentation to highlight Scouting's activities, high adventure, and outdoor experiences. Display hands-on visuals such as backpacks, canoes and tents and allow the youth to check them out up close.

Dress in outdoor wear to complete the setting. Allowing some experienced Scouts to assist in the presentation could help the youth visualize themselves as Scouts. The presentation should be no more than five minutes.

Following the introductory presentation, give each youth a High Adventure Survey. Ask them to check the high-adventure experiences that interest them. Explain that Scout troops do the kinds of activities listed on the survey.

While the youth are working on their surveys, announce that you would like to invite them to join a Scout troop. Explain that they will receive an invitation to join a Scout troop in their community if they mark that they are interested in joining. Collect every survey, and check to ensure that each is complete with the youth’s full name and contact information. If the school cannot allow assemblies with youth, suggest the alternative plan of having the school distribute the High Adventure Survey. Be sure to pick up the completed surveys soon after their distribution.

Sample E-mail Invitation for Boy Scouts
Located at www.scouting.org/WordstoLiveBy/BoyScout/Email
Troop New Parent Survey
Please fill out this questionnaire for each parent/guardian.

Name ____________________ Email Address: ____________________________________________

Address: __________________________________________________ Phone:___________________

1. What are your hobbies? _____________________________________________________________

2. What sports or activities do you take part in? __________________________________________

3. List any experience that you have as a youth or leader in Scouting (i.e. years, ranks, positions held):
   _______________________________________________________________________________

While a Scout Troop is “Boy Led”, it is under the supervision and with the support of adults. To provide the boys with the best possible experience, we need adults to serve on our Troop Committee.

Committee Positions:

☐ Chartered Organization Representative: The direct contact between the Troop and Sponsor Org.
☐ Troop Committee Chairman: Supervises the Troop committee and Troop leaders.
☐ Troop Treasurer: Handles Troop funds, pay bills, and maintain accounts
☐ Troop Advancement Chair: Ensures that the Troop has an effective advancement program
☐ Troop Boards of Review: Chairs the Boards of Review for the Troop.
☐ Troop Secretary: Keeps minutes and records, send notices, and handle publicity.
☐ Troop Equipment Coordinator: Works with the youth Quartermaster and is responsible for equipment.
☐ Troop Outdoor/Activities Chair: Secures tour permits and serves as transportation coordinator
☐ Troop Membership Chair: Ensures a smooth transition of new Scouts and parents into the Troop.
☐ Troop Training Chair: Ensures training opportunities are available and maintains records.
☐ Troop Public Relations Chair: Promotes troop’s activities to local media

Assistant Scoutmasters:
☐ Assistant Scoutmasters help Scoutmasters to lead the Scouts. Can you help in any of these areas?
   ☐ Cub Scout outreach: Works with the Den Chief(s) to maintain a relationship with the Pack.
   ☐ Service: Helps lead the Troop’s service activities.
   ☐ Administration: Assists with records and materials.
   ☐ Advancement: Works with the Scouts to help them with advancement.
   ☐ Outdoor skills: Helps the Scouts develop outdoor skills.
   ☐ Camping Trips: Helps to plan, organize, and lead camping and hiking trips.
   ☐ Troop Meetings: Helps the Patrol Leaders Council to plan and organize Troop meetings.
High-Adventure Survey

Check the activities you would like to do.

- Camping
- Swimming
- Horseback riding
- Canoeing
- Fishing
- Rock climbing
- Rafting
- Backpacking
- Cycling
- Snowboarding
- Sailing
- Motorboating

Many Scout troops do all of these things and more!

Are you a Scout? yes no

Would you like to be a Scout? yes no

Name ___________________________________________________________________
Grade ______________________
Age ________________
Address _______________________________________________________________
Phone __________________________________________
City __________________________________________
State _____________________
Zip __________________________________________
School _________________________________________________
E-mail __________________________________________________________
Dear parent,

Your son has taken a step toward building a solid future; are you willing to support his growth? Recently, your son indicated his desire to try his hand at such high-adventure activities as backpacking, cycling, camping, swimming, canoeing, rock climbing, and horseback riding. Our Scout troop will participate in these activities and even more in the coming year, and we would like to invite him to join the Boy Scouts of America.

Scouting has a reputation for helping youth develop self-reliance, strong character, respect for others, good citizenship skills, and physical and mental fitness. For a century, our programs have instilled in young men the values and knowledge that they need to become leaders in their communities and in their countries.

Please join our troop for our open house at (time) on (date) at (place). You’ll get a firsthand look at some of our troop activities, and you can visit with our Scouts and their adult leaders. Take some time to look over the enclosed brochure, and bring any questions or concerns to the meeting. I look forward to meeting you!

Sincerely,

Scoutmaster, Troop 123
Telephone No. 123

Sample E-mail Invitation for Boy Scouts
Located at www.scouting.org/WordstoLiveBy/BoyScout/Email

Mountain Man • Hit the trail of adventure
Pack up the knobby tires, sleeping bag, climbing rope, flashlight, swim trunks, and an intense desire to get outside and explore. See how far you can go in Scouting.

Join us at the next meeting.
Date: Month xx
Time: xx p.m.
Where: Address Line 1
        Address Line 2

Contact for more information:
Troop No. 123
First and last name, position
Contact email@contact.com
http://troopurl.url
Follow Up with a Call

On evening before the open house, each prospective Scout’s household should receive a phone call from a member of the troop, ideally the Scoutmaster, who sent the letter or e-mail. As you make the call, keep in mind that the youth has already expressed his interest, so direct the call to a parent. Best time to make the call is between 6-8 P.M.

To help put the parents at ease, ask the following questions:
1. Did the family receive the Scoutmaster’s letter or e-mail?
2. Does anyone in the family have previous Scouting experience?
3. Do they have any questions about Scouting or the troop open house?
4. Do they know the time and location of the troop open house? Ensure parents that you look forward to meeting them and will greet them at the door.
SAMPLE TROOP OPEN HOUSE AGENDA

1. Preopening
   • Conduct a simple action game for early arrivals.

2. Opening
   • Hold the flag ceremony.
   • Welcome the guests.

3. Activity Time
   a. Skill time for youth
      • Hot spark
      • Knot relay
      • Tent pitching
   b. Parent orientation
      • Explain the ideals and values of Scouting.
      • Introduce the troop leadership and its organization.
      • Distribute the troop calendar.
      • Explain the summer camp opportunity.
      • Thoroughly explain the costs of troop membership.

4. Joining process
   • Youth and parents complete applications to join Scouting.
   • Announce information about the next troop meeting.

5. Closing
   • Scoutmaster's minute
   • Closing ceremony

6. Refreshments (optional)
WEBELOS TO SCOUT TRANSITION

District Webelos Transition Chair
• Contact all packs in early fall to update a list of all fifth-grade Webelos Scouts.
• Coach Cubmasters and Webelos den leaders at roundtables, training courses, and through personal contact.
• Report to the membership committee chair, and keep the district committee informed.
• Track and maintain records of Webelos graduation: use a wall chart to lists the transition record of each pack.
• Work with unit commissioners to follow up on Webelos Scouts who have not joined a troop.
• Work toward 100 percent Webelos transition.

Troop Responsibilities
• Select Scouts to serve as den chiefs for each Webelos Scout den and Cub Scout den.
• Arrange for den chief training.
• Serve as a resource for overnight activities.
• Conduct an orientation in the Bear Cub Scout dens to explain the changing role as boys become Webelos.
• Explain how being a Webelos Scout will help prepare them for Boy Scouting.
• Conduct an orientation with the Scouts as they become Boy Scouts.
• Webelos den/Scout troop camp outs should show Webelos Scouts and their parents what to expect.
• The troop should cook and camp by patrol, and use skills in which the Webelos Scouts can participate.
• Arrange for Webelos dens to visit a troop meeting. This should be planned several weeks in advance.
• Provide each Webelos Scout a copy of the troop’s activities for the upcoming year.
• Work with Webelos den leaders to encourage Scouts to plan to move into the troop.
• Conduct a Scoutmaster conference under the guidance of the Scoutmaster or the assistant
  • This conference should cover the meaning of the Scout Oath and Scout Law
  • The advancement program
  • Troop camping
  • The patrol method
  • Summer camp and personal equipment.
• Work with the Cubmaster in planning a meaningful crossover ceremony at the pack’s blue and gold banquet.
  • Coordinate the ceremony and arrange for each Webelos Scout to receive:
    • A troop neckerchief
    • Boy Scout Handbook along
    • Arrow of Light Award
    • Members of the Order of the Arrow may assist in the ceremony.
Unit Commissioner Responsibilities

- Be a catalyst in developing good relationships between troop and pack leaders.
- Promote communication by scheduling a meeting of key volunteers.
- Help plan a Webelos den visit to a troop meeting and other joint activities.
- Keep the pack and troop on schedule as they work on the crossover ceremony at the blue and gold banquet.
- Attend the crossover ceremony.
- Be sure new Scouts have completed a Boy Scout application, and have all necessary troop info.
- Work with the pack and troop in their charter renewal process to help ensure Webelos Scouts are moved.
- Work with the Webelos transition chair to follow up on boys who have not yet joined a troop.
- Make sure they are invited to join a troop.
- Be sure Webelos Scouts join a troop in time to prepare for Boy Scout summer camp.

Pack Responsibilities

- 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.
- Compare calendars of troop and pack activities to coordinate the activities.
  - Community events can be done together, and planning can help coordinate equipment use.
- Work with troop leaders to secure den chiefs for each Webelos den and Cub Scout den.
- Work with troop leaders to plan and conduct Webelos overnight activities.
- Work with troop leaders to plan visits to troop meetings. Never show up without first calling in advance.
- Invite the Scoutmaster and troop youth leaders to special pack activities.
- Plan a meaningful crossover ceremony at the pack’s blue and gold banquet.
  - Have troop leadership 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.
- Webelos leaders should be strongly encouraged to move into the troop with the boys.
- If a troop does not exist in your community, discuss with the head of the pack’s chartered organization the possibility of organizing a troop.
  - A graduating Webelos den can form the nucleus of a new troop.
WEBELOS TO SCOUT TRANSITION
TIME LINE

AUGUST
• Get names, addresses, and telephone numbers of second-year Webelos.
• Plan a joint Boy Scout troop/Webelos den camping trip for October.
• Plan a program of upcoming events to present at a Webelos den meeting visit in November.
• Select a den chief for each Webelos den.

SEPTEMBER
• Mail a letter of introduction from the Boy Scout troop to second-year Webelos Scouts to introduce them to the troop.
• Put second-year Webelos Scouts on the mailing list to receive the troop newsletter.
• Continue planning the joint camping trip for October.

OCTOBER
• Conduct the joint camping trip with the Webelos den.

NOVEMBER
• Attend a Webelos den meeting to teach the Webelos Scouts how the Boy Scout troop works.
• Have den chiefs attend a local council or district training course.

DECEMBER
• Set a date for Webelos Scouts and their parents to visit a Boy Scout troop meeting in January.
• Send a form of information or greeting, letting Webelos you look forward to them joining the troop.

JANUARY
• Host Webelos Scouts and their parents at a Boy Scout troop meeting.
• Plan a bridging ceremony for the blue and gold banquets in February to welcome graduating Webelos Scouts to their new troop.
• Attend a meeting for first-year Webelos Scouts to introduce them to Boy Scouting.

FEBRUARY
• Hold the bridging ceremony at the blue and gold banquet.
• Get new Scouts actively involved with the troop through troop activities.
• Recruit parents of new Scouts to become assistant Scoutmasters or troop committee members.

MARCH
• Plan a troop activity for new Scouts to get them involved with their new troop.
APRIL
- Conduct summer camp orientation to encourage troop involvement.
- Attend a meeting of Bear Cub Scouts to introduce them to Boy Scouting.
- Sponsor a troop activity for new Scouts.

MAY
- Work closely with new Scouts and parents during their transition to the Boy Scout troop, ensuring their needs are met and that their move has been natural and fun.
- Work on rank advancement with new Scouts.

JUNE
- Ensure that all new Scouts attend summer camp.

JULY
- Work closely with new Scouts and parents during their transition to the Boy Scout troop, ensuring their needs are met and that their move has been natural and fun.
- Work on rank advancement with new Scouts.
During the initial contact with Scout-age youth, we promised that Scouting is action-packed. Youth will expect that adventure soon after they become Scouts, so schedule an exciting activity soon after the troop open house. Here are a few suggestions:

**TROOP CAMP OUT**
New Scouts joined with the expectation of going camping, and they should be given this opportunity for outdoor activity as soon as possible following the troop open house. Begin planning the activity well before the troop open house so that the event is in place when the new Scouts join.

**DISTRICT WIDE OVERNIGHTER**
Some districts may choose to host all their troops for an overnighter at an area camp. The program could include basic Scouting skills, a campfire, and preparing a simple meal. The experience will quickly give new Scouts a sense of belonging and fulfill their expectations of an exciting adventure.

**LOCK-INS**
Lock-in events also have proven successful in some districts. Lock-ins, which are especially effective in colder climates, are more like “camp-ins” rather than the usual camp out. They can be set up at the local YMCA or school gymnasium. Program possibilities could include swimming, sports, movies, refreshments, and a little sleeping. Two-Deep Leadership According to BSA Youth Protection policies, every BSA trip or outing involving Scout-age youth should be supervised by two BSA registered adult leaders or one registered adult leader and a parent or guardian of a participant, one of whom must be at least 21 years of age. The chartered organization is responsible for ensuring that sufficient leadership is provided for all activities. For more information on BSA Youth Protection, consult the Guide to Safe Scouting at www.scouting.org.

**Get New Scouts Involved**
New Scouts should be introduced into the mainstream of troop activities as soon as possible after they join the troop. Assign them to Scout patrol and get them started on earning advancement. The Scoutmaster, assistant Scoutmaster, or troop guide should take responsibility for helping new Scouts get a good start.
Every Scout Deserves a Trained Leader
Trained Scout leaders provide a quality, fun-filled program for youth! Training helps a leader to be aware of the resources available to them and therefore be more effective in delivering an unparalleled program to the youth.

On the following page, you will find a matrix designed to show you what trainings are needed to be considered a “Trained Leader” for your position. It is most important to start with Youth Protection Training for any registered adult leader. You can also keep track of your pack’s training records at myscouting.org.

Youth Protection Training
The Boy Scouts of America, Mid-America Council is committed to protecting our youth members. Youth Protection training is required and:

- Educates Scouting members to protect youth.
- Strengthens policies to increase protection.
- Encourages Scouts to report improper behavior.
- Swiftly removes and reports alleged offenders.

Mandatory Report of Child Abuse
All persons involved in Scouting shall report to local authorities any good faith suspicion or belief that any child is or has been physically or sexually abused, physically or emotionally neglected, exposed to any form of violence or threat, exposed to any form of sexual exploitation including the possession, manufacture or distribution of child pornography, online solicitation, enticement or showing of obscene material. No person may abdicate this reporting responsibility to any other person.

Notify our Scout Executive (Eric Magendantz) at 402.431.9272 of this report, or of any violation of BSA’S Youth Protection policies, so that he may take appropriate action for the safety of our Scouts, make appropriate notifications and follow-up with investigating agencies.

Use the following to report child abuse or neglect in your area once you have notified the council:

Iowa • (800) 362-2178 • http://www.dhs.iowa.gov/
Nebraska • (800) 652-1999 • http://www.hhs.state.ne.us/cha/chaindex.htm
South Dakota • (800) 422-4453 • http://dss.sd.gov/cps/protective/reporting.asp

Take Youth Protection Training Online
Take YPT online at www.MyScouting.org:
1. Log on to MyScouting.org and create an account
2. From the MyScouting.org portal, click on E-Learning and take the Youth Protection Training.
3. Upon completion, you may print a certificate of completion to submit with a volunteer application.
4. When your volunteer application is approved, you will receive a BSA membership card which includes your member ID.
5. When you receive this membership card, log into MyScouting.org and update your profile with your member ID number. This will link your Youth Protection training records and all training records with your BSA membership.
6. Retake every two years.
## TRAINING REQUIRED BY POSITION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position Code</th>
<th>Position Description</th>
<th>Basic Required Trainings</th>
<th>Other Important/Recommended Trainings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CC</td>
<td>Committee Chairman</td>
<td>X X X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MC</td>
<td>Committee Member</td>
<td>X X X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>112</td>
<td>Unit Advancement Chairman</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>116</td>
<td>Unit Chaplain</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80</td>
<td>Unit Commissioner</td>
<td>X X X X</td>
<td>X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>124</td>
<td>Unit Friends-of-Scouting Chairman</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>126</td>
<td>Unit Membership / Webelos Transition Chmn.</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>119</td>
<td>Unit Popcorn Chairman</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>122</td>
<td>Unit Secretary</td>
<td>X X X</td>
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<tr>
<td>128</td>
<td>Unit Training Chairman</td>
<td>X X X</td>
<td>X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X</td>
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<tr>
<td>123</td>
<td>Unit Treasurer</td>
<td>X X X</td>
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<tr>
<td>PS</td>
<td>Scout/Parent</td>
<td>X X X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PC</td>
<td>Scout/Parents Unit Coordinator</td>
<td>X X X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CM</td>
<td>Cubmaster</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CA</td>
<td>Assistant Cubmaster</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>PT</td>
<td>Pack Trainer</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>AP</td>
<td>Tiger Cub Adult</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>TL</td>
<td>Tiger Cub Den Leader</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DL</td>
<td>Den Leader</td>
<td>X X X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Asst. Den Leader</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>Scoutmaster</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td>Merit Badge Counselor</td>
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<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td>Religious Emblems Counselor</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Leader of 11-Year-Old Scouts</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>VC</td>
<td>Varsity Scout Coach</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Assistant Varsity Coach</td>
<td>X X X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NL</td>
<td>Venturing Crew Advisor</td>
<td>X X X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Venturing Crew Assoc. Advisor</td>
<td>X X X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SK</td>
<td>Skipper</td>
<td>X X X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NF</td>
<td>MATE</td>
<td>X X X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EA</td>
<td>Explorer Post Advisor</td>
<td>X X X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AA</td>
<td>Post-Explorer Post Associate Advisor</td>
<td>X X X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCC</td>
<td>Post Committee Chairman</td>
<td>X X X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PMC</td>
<td>Post Committee Member</td>
<td>X X X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Trainings offered in Online Learning Center may be found at [www.MyScouting.org](http://www.MyScouting.org) - click each trainings title to be directed to the correct link.
- Make sure to use your BSA Member ID number when signing up for a MyScouting account and/or doing trainings online.
- Trainings not offered online may be found at [www.mac-bsa.org](http://www.mac-bsa.org), click on your program, (i.e. “Cub Scouts”) then “Training”
- This training may be required for a Tour Permit, depending on tour activities.
How Long is My Training Good For?

- Youth Protection – every two years
- National Camping School – good for five camping seasons
- Safe Swim Defense – every two years
- Paddle Craft Safety – every three years
- Aquatics Supervision/Swimming and Water Rescue – every three years
- BSA Lifeguard – every three years
- Visitation training – every two years
- Lead Climbing Instructor – every five years
- Climbing Instructor – every two years
- COPE/Climbing Inspector – every two years
- Safety Afloat – every two years
- Chain Saw Safety – every two years
- Trainer's EDGE – every three years
- Hazardous Weather – every two years
- Physical Wellness – every two years
- Climb On Safely – every two years
- Trek Safely – every two years

Other Resources:

Bullying

The values of Scouting make it clear that bullying cannot be tolerated. Scouting leaders have a unique opportunity to teach respect and acceptance of others. This training focuses on enabling adult leaders and parents to increase their awareness of the incidence and effects of bullying, to create an anti-bullying culture in their Scouting units, and to empower Scouts to assist those targeted by bullies wherever it occurs. Strategies for supporting the victims of bullying and for helping Scouts who bully others develop more appropriate social skills are presented as well.

Visit [http://scouting.org/Training/Adult/Supplemental.aspx](http://scouting.org/Training/Adult/Supplemental.aspx) and scroll down to view the online PowerPoint and correlating training information document.

Check out BSA information on cyber bullying here:
[http://www.scouting.org/filestore/youthprotection/pdf/100-055_WB.pdf](http://www.scouting.org/filestore/youthprotection/pdf/100-055_WB.pdf)
[http://www.scouting.org/cyberchip.aspx](http://www.scouting.org/cyberchip.aspx)

A Time to Tell

The Boy Scouts of America has developed Youth Protection training to prepare its leaders to help children who have been, or are being, abused. The training program includes information for parents as well as the video A Time to Tell. Materials are for use in troop meetings to show Boy Scouts & Venturers and their parents what they should do to prevent abuse from happening to them.
OTHER TRAININGS

National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT)
This is an exciting program designed to provide youth members with leadership skills and experience they can use in their home troops and in other situations demanding leadership. The new NYLT course is centered on the concepts of what a leader must BE, what he or she must KNOW, and what he or she must DO. The key elements are then taught with a clear focus on HOW TO achieve them. A six-day course, the content is delivered in a troop and patrol outdoor setting through activities, presentations, challenges, discussions, and audio-visual support. NYLT participants will be engaged in a unified approach to leadership that will give them the skills and confidence to lead well.

- July 22 – August 2, 2014 at Little Sioux Scout Ranch
- July 26 – August 1, 2015

Introduction to Outdoor Leadership Skills (IOLS)
Hands-on program for adult leaders to learn outdoor skills needed to lead Scouts in the out-of-doors.

Train-A-Ganza
Trained leaders provide a quality, fun-filled program for troops. When leaders understand Scouting, they are more effective in their roles. Check in begins 1 hour before class starts. Wear your Scout uniform. Bring appropriate handbooks, paper, and pencil.

Wilderness First Aid
Wilderness First Aid (WFA) is the assessment of and treatment given to an ill or injured person in a remote environment where definitive care by a physician and/or rapid transport is not readily available. A BSA-led task force has developed WFA doctrine and curriculum. You must be certified through the American Red Cross, Emergency Care and Safety Institute, or other courses accepted by the BSA on the ACA (ML1) accreditation site. Participants learn how to assess, treat, and (when possible) contain emergencies within the scope of their training. Youth and adult Scout leaders over age 14 are invited to participate and earn their certification.
Den Chief Training
Boy Scouts wishing to become den chiefs will take this online course as part of their training to become a den chief. The module identifies den chief responsibilities and tasks, and describes the den chief’s relationship to the adult den leaders and how that relates to the den chief’s activities with the den. After finishing the online training, den chief candidates print their certificate of completion and undergo further training with their adult den leaders.

WHEN: Available weekly at Camp Cedars Summer Camp and online anytime at http://tinyurl.com/pyvx89z. Estimated time to complete online training – 45 minutes.

What is Wood Badge?
Wood Badge is an adult training where you work with others to learn and practice leadership skills (as a member of a successful working team) and live the values of scouting.

21st Century Wood Badge is the ultimate leadership training experience for adult BSA leaders, conducted in an outdoor encampment, with the focus on application of leadership skills. These skills are conveyed through active learning sessions in an ideal Scout setting. You will be able to use these lessons and experiences from Wood Badge outside of scouting to make every team a successful team, whether the team is at your work or is your family. Inspired in England by Lord Baden-Powell at Gilwell Camp, Wood Badge is today offered around the world. Upon completion, a Scouter receives a certificate, neckerchief, woggle, and beads, and becomes a permanent member of Troop 1, Gilwell.

Wood Badge Courses
- August 22-24, 2014 & September 12-14, 2014
- August 21-23, 2015 & September 18-20, 2015

Financial Assistance
Financial assistance is available. Both the VFW and the AFL-CIO offer scholarships to be applied toward the course fee. There are also scholarships available through the Wood Badge committee. Please see www.mac-bsa.org/woodbadge for more information.
What is the Heartland University of Scouting?
The Heartland University of Scouting is supplemental leader training at its best! It is designed to provide program ideas, resources and FUN for all Scouting volunteers. It is planned so that leaders may return year after year, earn degrees in their chosen fields and keep current on all that Scouting has to offer the youth in our communities.

In addition to the courses offered, the Resource Round-up is open to anyone from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. and offers Scout leaders and parents the opportunity to gather information from Scouting organizations and also community organizations and businesses.

2014 Heartland University of Scouting
The 2014 Heartland University of Scouting will be Saturday, November 1 at Boys Town. Please look for registration packets and more information in August 2014. The 2015 course will be on November 7, 2015.

NEW Introduction to Leadership Skills (ILS) Courses!

Youth leaders should complete this as the first step in the Youth Leadership Training (YLT) continuum!

Leadership is a vital part of the Scouting program. The purpose of the Introduction to Leadership Skills for Troops (ILST) is to teach Boy Scouts with leadership positions about their new roles and how to most effectively reach success in that role. It is intended to help Boy Scouts in leadership positions within their Unit understand their responsibilities and to equip them with organizational and leadership skills to fulfill those responsibilities. ILST is the first course in the series of leadership training offered to Boy Scouts and has replaced Troop Leadership Training. There are similar ILS courses now available for Venture Crews (ILSC), Sea Scout Ships (ILSS), and Varsity Teams (ILST) Completion of Introduction to Leadership Skills is a prerequisite for Scouts to participate in the more advanced leadership courses National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT) and the National Advanced Youth Leadership Experience (NAYLE). It is also required to participate in a Kodiak Challenge Trek.

Troops and Crews may find the syllabus and resources to conduct Introduction to Leadership Skills at www.mac-bsa.org. Scroll to your program (i.e. Boy Scouts) and click on Training. The Sea Scout Ship ILS program can be downloaded at http://www.scouting.org/Training/Youth.

Every troop, crew, and ship should be routinely conducting the ILS program!! Is yours?
Use this recharter time line to help you stay ahead of the game.

September 2014
• Request a copy of your roster from the Council office (402) 431-9BSA (9272).
  • Look over and audit your membership.
• Collect and submit membership applications for new youth and adult members to your council office.
• Make sure:
  • Birth date, social security numbers and position codes are on all adult applications.
  • “Authorization and Disclosure Statement” is signed on all adult applications.
  • Birth date and parent signature is included on youth applications.
• Re-confirm all signatures are present on all applications.
• Turn in to the Mid-America Council.

October 2014 Roundtable
• Pick up your re-charter kit.

October/November 2014
• Go online to verify your membership roster and that new applications have been added
• Make sure all contacts and information is updated: Institutional Head, Charter Rep., Committee Chair, two Committee Members (Pack Trainer Counts), Scoutmaster.
• Update Charter Partner information on printed paper version of charter in kit.
• Set up a meeting with your Charter Partner to review charter/roster and obtain all signatures: Institutional Head, Cubmaster, District Executive.

December Roundtable, 2014
• Turn in your charter to your Unit Commissioner, District Commissioner or District Executive
• All charters should be turned in by your December roundtable (first Tuesday or Thursday of the month)

These positions are required for Rechartering:
Institutional Head (IH), Charter Representative (CR), Committee Chair (CC), Committee Member (MC), Scoutmaster (SM).

ASSESS THE TROOP’S SUCCESS

Use the Journey to Excellence to assess the health of your troop. The Journey to Excellence Program was designed for any size troop to find success if they planned accordingly.

During the re-charter period, you will work through the worksheet on the next page, to determine if your troop earned the Journey to Excellence or if it made improvements over last year’s program.

We hope this worksheet will help you easily determine your standing in the Journey to Excellence. Remember, the Bronze, Silver and Gold levels are national awards. Go to www.scouting.org/jte for instructions for the worksheet on the following page.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item Number</th>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Bronze Level</th>
<th>Silver Level</th>
<th>Gold Level</th>
<th>Bronze Points</th>
<th>Silver Points</th>
<th>Gold Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Advancement: Increase the percentage of Boy Scouts earning rank advancements.</td>
<td>Have 40% of Boy Scouts advance one rank or have a 2 percentage point increase.</td>
<td>Have 45% of Boy Scouts advance, or 40% advance and a 2 percentage point increase.</td>
<td>Have 50% of Boy Scouts advance, or 45% and have a 2 percentage point increase.</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Retention: Improve retention rate.</td>
<td>Retain and reregister 75% of eligible members, or have a 2 percentage point increase.</td>
<td>Retain and reregister 80% of members, or retain and reregister 75% and have a 2 percentage point increase.</td>
<td>Retain and reregister 85% of members, or retain and reregister 80% and have a 2 percentage point increase.</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Building Boy Scouting: Have an increase in membership or be larger than the average size troop.</td>
<td>Have a membership growth plan that includes a recruitment night and either a net gain of one member over last year or at least 15 members.</td>
<td>Have a membership growth plan that includes a recruitment night and either increase youth members by 5% or have at least 25 members.</td>
<td>Have a membership growth plan that includes a recruitment night and either increase youth members by 10% or have at least 35 members with an increase over last year.</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Trained leadership: Have a trained and engaged troop committee.</td>
<td>Have a Scoutmaster, an assistant Scoutmaster, and a committee with at least three members.</td>
<td>Achieve Silver, plus the Scoutmaster and 60% of assistants have completed basic leader training or, if new, will complete within three months of joining.</td>
<td>Achieve Silver, plus two-thirds of active committee members must have completed Troop Committee Challenge and at least one person has attended Wood Badge.</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>300</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Short-term camping: The troop conducts short-term or weekend campouts throughout the year.</td>
<td>Conduct four short-term overnight campouts.</td>
<td>Conduct seven short-term overnight campouts.</td>
<td>Conduct nine short-term overnight campouts.</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>200</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Long-term camping: The troop participates in a long-term camp.</td>
<td>The troop participates in a long-term camp.</td>
<td>60% of Scouts attend a long-term camp.</td>
<td>70% of Scouts attend a long-term camp.</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>200</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Patrol method: The troop uses the patrol method.</td>
<td>The troop has patrols, and each has a patrol leader. There is an SPL if more than one patrol. The PLC meets at least four times a year. The troop holds patrol leader training.</td>
<td>PLC meets at least six times a year, including an annual planning meeting.</td>
<td>PLC meets at least 10 times a year, including an annual planning meeting, and one Scout attends NLT.</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>200</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Service projects: The troop participates in service projects, with one benefiting your chartered organization.</td>
<td>Participate in four service projects and enter the hours on the JTE website.</td>
<td>Participate in five service projects and enter the hours on the JTE website.</td>
<td>Participate in six service projects and enter the hours on the JTE website.</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Webelos-to-Scout transition: Have a Webelos-to-Scout transition plan.</td>
<td>Achieve Bronze, plus recruit two Webelos Scouts.</td>
<td>Achieve Bronze, plus recruit five Webelos Scouts.</td>
<td>Achieve Bronze, plus provide at least one den chief to a pack and recruit five Webelos Scouts.</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Budget: The troop has a budget that is continually reviewed by the committee and follows BSA policies relating to fundraising and fiscal management.</td>
<td>Have a written budget reviewed at committee meetings and that follows BSA policies.</td>
<td>Achieve Bronze, plus Scouts participate in the budget planning process.</td>
<td>Achieve Silver, plus budget is completed before the next program year.</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Courts of honor/parents meetings: Scouts are recognized for their badges at courts of honor.</td>
<td>Scouts are recognized for badges or cards at least twice a year at courts of honor, where troop plans are reviewed with parents.</td>
<td>Three courts of honor are held with families attending.</td>
<td>Four courts of honor are held with families attending.</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Fitness: Troop meetings and activities include physical fitness components.</td>
<td>Introduce the SCOUTStrong program in the troop.</td>
<td>Achieve Bronze, plus the troop promotes and coordinates group fitness activities.</td>
<td>Achieve Silver, plus the troop holds an ongoing fitness competition where members can track their performance.</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>200</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Annual Charter Renewal Process</td>
<td>Complete charter reregistration, obtain all signatures, and submit paperwork to the council office or your commissioner prior to the expiration of your charter.</td>
<td>Achieve Bronze, plus email addresses are provided for all parents of youth members and registered adults who have one.</td>
<td>Achieve Silver, plus promote the MyScouting Tools accessed through your MyScouting account and invite a commissioner and your chartered organization representative to at least one meeting.</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>100</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Points

Gold: Earn at least 1,600 points by earning points in at least 11 objectives.
Bronze: Earn at least 700 points by earning points in at least 11 objectives.
Silver: Earn at least 1,000 points by earning points in at least 11 objectives.

Total points ________

We certify on our honor as Scout leaders that these requirements have been completed.

Scoutmaster ____________________________ Committee chair ____________________________
Commissioner ____________________________ Chartered Org. Rep. ____________________________

Level achieved _______________ Did not achieve _______________ Date _______________

This form should be turned in to the Scout service center or your unit commissioner with your charter renewal paperwork.
SCOUTStrong™ PALA
BSA Unit Leader Quick-Start Guide

What Is the SCOUTStrong™ PALA?
The SCOUTStrong™ Presidential Active Lifestyle Award (PALA) Challenge will help your unit members add physical activity to their lifestyle, as well as help them improve their eating habits.

Who Should Be Involved?
This challenge is for Scouts and their entire families, as well as for leaders and their families.

How Is the SCOUTStrong™ Earned?
To earn the SCOUTStrong™ PALA Challenge Award, participants are required to meet a daily activity goal of 30 minutes a day for adults and 60 minutes a day for kids under 18 for at least five days a week, for six out of eight weeks. Also, each week they will focus on a healthy eating goal. There are eight to choose from, and each week they will add a new goal while continuing with their previous goals. Stick with the program, and participants can earn a SCOUTStrong™ PALA award patch in less than two months.

How Do I Get My Unit Started?
Participants can enroll and track their progress either online with a free online activity tracker or on a paper activity log (see reverse side) or downloading an activity log at www.scouting.org/SCOUTStrongPALA.

Online Activity Tracker Participant Directions
- Visit www.scouting.org/SCOUTStrongPALA.
- Use the appropriate dropdown menu to pick the appropriate state based on desired council/organization location.
- Use the appropriate dropdown menu to pick the desired council/organization.
- Click the START YOUR PALA CHALLENGE! button.
- At the PALA page of the affiliated council/organization, click CREATE AN ACCOUNT.
- Complete the required fields and click REGISTER.
- The activity tracker home page is what will appear at each login. The home page allows participants to track their activities, join a group, see their award progress, and adjust their account preferences.

For more information, including access to completion certificates, please go to www.scouting.org/SCOUTStrongPALA.

Prepared. For Life.
BSA National Outdoor Challenge Application

To: Local Council
Attention: Council Camping Committee

Date __________ Troop No. __________
District ____________________________
Chartered Organization ____________________________

Our patrol leaders’ council reports that our troop has met the BSA National Outdoor Challenge by achieving the following.

1. The troop developed an annual plan for the current year.

2a. Our troop conducted 10 outdoor trips or activities with at least 50 percent of the registered youth participating.
   □ Yes  □ No

   OR

2b. Our troop increased the number of outdoor trip or activities compared to the previous year.
   Previous year ________
   Current year ________
   □ Yes  □ No

3. Our troop attended long-term resident camp or a local/national high-adventure experience of at least six days/five nights.
   □ Yes  □ No

4. The troop conducted at least one outing with a Webelos Scout den.
   □ Yes  □ No

5. The troop earned at least one outdoors-related* merit badge per Scout.
   Number of registered Scouts ________
   Total outdoor* merit badges earned ________
   □ Yes  □ No

6. The troop conducted at least one Leave No Trace program during the calendar year for a minimum of 50 percent of the members.
   □ Yes  □ No

Camping chairman/unit commissioner ___________________________________

Scoutmaster ___________________________________

Senior patrol leader ___________________________________

Recognition:
National Outdoor Challenge streamer, No. 610297


BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

430-016
2010 Boy Scouts of America

56
# BSA National Outdoor Challenge

**Instructions:** Make entries for each member. Enter “0” if a member has not participated.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit No.</th>
<th>Roster of Scouts</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Resident Camp</th>
<th>Days in Camp</th>
<th>Cumulative Total</th>
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</tbody>
</table>
Most forms are available at [www.mac-bsa.org](http://www.mac-bsa.org) or [scouting.org/forms](http://scouting.org/forms)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Forms</th>
<th>What</th>
<th>When</th>
<th>Why / How</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accident Report</td>
<td>Information on any accidents happening during BSA programs</td>
<td>File after providing First Aid or other care</td>
<td>Forms can be found on <a href="http://www.mac-bsa.org">www.mac-bsa.org</a> (BSA accident policy number on reverse side)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campership Application</td>
<td>Application filled out by parent and unit leader to obtain financial assistance for the first week of camp</td>
<td>Go to <a href="http://www.mac-bsa.org">www.mac-bsa.org</a> to find the due dates for the campership application</td>
<td>Provides financial assistance to Scouts who attend Cub Camping, Camp Cedars, or NYLT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certificates of Insurance</td>
<td>Request for $500K or $1M of liability insurance</td>
<td>Organization asks for proof of liability</td>
<td>File a request through Durham Scout Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Conservation Award</td>
<td>Application for conservation patch</td>
<td>When purchasing patch (1 per boy)</td>
<td>Requirements vary by age and are listed on the report form</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eagle Application</td>
<td>Begin at Life rank to track progress to Eagle- REQUEST verified application from MACBSA</td>
<td>At Life Court of Honor</td>
<td>Download application from <a href="http://www.mac-bsa.org">www.mac-bsa.org</a> and talk to your scoutmaster to find out whom to turn it in to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leader Application</td>
<td>4 part; use to approve and register new leaders</td>
<td>As new leader is recruited</td>
<td>Key part of youth protection plan; adds to insurance coverage; begins local and national mailings; begins tenure record for awards; finalizes leadership approvals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forms</td>
<td>What</td>
<td>When</td>
<td>Why / How</td>
</tr>
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<td>-----------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Application</td>
<td>2 part; use to register any youth member</td>
<td>As new member joins</td>
<td>Adds new members to insurance coverage, begins Boy’s Life subscription, and begins advancement tenure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wood Badge</td>
<td>Application for Wood badge training</td>
<td>Prior to the course</td>
<td>Gives recipients access to important and very beneficial training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VWF Scholarship</td>
<td>Scholarship opportunity to assist VFW members to attend wood badge training</td>
<td>Return application no later than March 31st</td>
<td>Gives scholarship winners access to important and very beneficial training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFL-CIO Wood Badge Scholarship</td>
<td>Scholarship opportunity to assist union members in attending wood badge training</td>
<td>Return application no later than January 15th</td>
<td>Gives scholarship winners access to important and very beneficial training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tour Plan</td>
<td>Official approval required for outings and trips over 25 miles. National permit required for trips over 500 miles one way.</td>
<td>30 days for all trips</td>
<td>Protects members and leaders by assuring trips meet safety, health, and program policies.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Jubilee is an amazing event for the whole family! There are endless activities and fun things to do for every age group - boys, girls, moms, and dads! Registration is open now and costs $30 per person.

Here are some things you can expect:

- Hairball Concert Friday Night
- Smash Mouth Concert Saturday Night
- Climbing Walls
- Shooting Sports
- STEM Activities (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics)
- American Indian Dancers
- Civil War Re-enactors
- Gaming Competitions
- Fireworks
- And MORE!

Make sure you like the Mid-America Council's Jubilee Facebook page to get the latest details. We can't wait to see you there!

www.mac-bsa.org/MACjubilee
www.facebook.com/BSAMACjubilee
#SaveTheDate #Jubilee2014
GO AHEAD
HAVE PANCAKES
FOR LUNCH
WE DON’T JUDGE

Now Open
Shoppes at Aksarben
1222 South 71st St.
Omaha, NE 68106
(402) 932-5691

We’re located in the Shoppes at Aksarben at the SE corner of 72nd and Pacific.

7AM - 2:30PM DAILY

First Watch
The Daytime Café
Someday I’ll Be…
Empowering today’s youth with the tools to create their own destiny — that’s what the Boy Scouts of America is all about.

Bellevue University is centered on those same ideals and beliefs.

Citizenship, service, and leadership — values shared by Bellevue University and the Boy Scouts of America.

START YOUR SOMEDAY at Bellevue University
MAKE IT A BOWLING NIGHT!
AT MAPLEWOOD LANCES!

BOY SCOUTS
OF
AMERICA

*OUR FRIENDLY STAFF IS AVAILABLE TO HELP YOU EARN BADGES!*

*Discounted Open Bowling Rates For Boy Scouts!*

*ALL NIGHTER RATES AVAILABLE! MINIMUM 80 KIDS*

*Adult Child Leagues Available*

*SHORT SEASON LEAGUES & LEARN TO BOWL CLASSES AVAILABLE!*

*Mom OR Dad & Boy Scout Event Dates Available!*

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OMAHA, NE 68134
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Tradition.
Knowledge.
Community.
On our honor.

Benjamin Lorenzen
UNO Student
and Assistant Scout Master

www.unomaha.edu
Have a ROARING good time

at your next scout gathering!

Omaha’s Henry Doorly Zoo & Aquarium®
- and the -
Wildlife Safari Park
both offer unique programs to help your scouts learn about the world around them.

SCOUT CLASSES
A variety of topics will help your scouts meet their badge requirements:

- Animals and Nature
- Sharing Your World with Wildlife
- Oceanography
- Water and Soil Conservation
- Bird Study, Insect Study
- Environmental Science

Questions? Email scouts@omahazoo.com

CAMPOUTS
A night your scouts will never forget! Sleep outdoors at our Wildlife Safari Park or choose to snooze at Omaha’s Zoo & Aquarium in one of over 10 locations.

Questions? Email camps@omahazoo.com

Visit OmahaZoo.com/Family for more information.
BOY SCOUTS @ THE MUSEUM

Overnights

November 7, 2014
November 15, 2014
November 21, 2015
January 9, 2015
January 30, 2015
February 6, 2015
February 28, 2015
March 6, 2015

Cub Scout Overnight
Astronomy Merit Badge
Cub Scout Overnight
Engineering Merit Badge
Aviation Merit Badge
Robotics Merit Badge
Aviation Merit Badge
Cub Scout Overnight

March 13, 2015
March 20, 2015
April 11, 2015
April 17, 2015
April 24, 2015
May 2, 2015
May 8, 2015
May 16, 2015

Robotics Merit Badge
Aviation Merit Badge
Cub Scouts Overnight
Astronomy Merit Badge
Space Exploration Merit Badge
Cub Scouts Overnight
Space Exploration Merit Badge
Astronomy Merit Badge

STRATEGIC
AIR & SPACE
MUSEUM

Register today! Space is limited!
Online: www.sasmuseum.com
Call: 402.944.3100 ext.209
An exciting and encouraging program of science, safety, and MAGIC for children and adults of all ages.

For more information
Call: 402-554-2511
Email: UNOphysics@unomaha.edu
The Original Harlem Globetrotters

Sat., April 5 • 7pm

To order tickets contact: Kristine Slizewski @ 800-641-4667 x122 or Slizewski@harlemglobetrotters.com

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Howard Johnson
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Western Iowa’s Largest Ford Dealer
(800) 432-9837  mcmullenford.com
I-80 & Lake Manawa Exit in Council Bluffs
Don’t miss our Annual Scout Day!

Bring your troop on June 27th, 2014
Call the Waterpark Sales Office at 712.213.5703
Traditional Values of “Old” taught to the Youth Of Today and we do it, “The Cowboy Way”.

**Cub Scouts**
Cub Scouts will tour the Farm and see Horses, Chickens, Goats and more. Respect for the Animals is the Cowboy way. They will learn how to show respect and be respected by the animals.

**Boys Scouts**
You will learn proper gender terminology for horse, Pigs and other farm animals. Learn the parts of A Horse using a live example. Understand how to Show Respect for the animals and get respect right back from them.

**When:** We are available 7 days a week with 2 weeks Notice or more. Merit badge programs are available And take 2-3 hours to complete.
Give us a call and we can work out the details.

**Where:** 13714 South 84th Street Papillion NE
True Buddy Farms

**Cost:** $15-$25 Depending on length of stay.

**Capacity:** We can handle up to 35 kids min. 5 kids.

**Contact:** Cowboy Dave direct line: 402-677-5190
Email: cowboy-dave@cox.net

Signed release will be required, day of event. These will be sent prior to event for completion.

**Leadership:** prefer one leader for every 5 scouts.

**Refunds:** 2 day in advance cancelation required

**Amenities:** Handicap accessible facility, frig, stove and grill are available. AC and Heated classroom.

Cowboy Dave does troop visits, Blue Gold Ceremony Presentation with “Cowboy Poetry”. Price negotiable based upon event.
My Bucket List:
1. Zip over a ravine on a zip line
2. Sky Rocket on a Jumping Pillow
3. Be like Spiderman (1)
4. Earn my Eagle Scout (2)
5. Get lost in a corn maze
6. See an alpaca
7. Battle a Viking (3)
8. Walk a “tight rope” (4)
9. Climb an elephant (5)
10. Have a great time with my Scout troop
(1) Rope and Harness Tree Climbing, (2) over 40 Eagle Projects available, (3) 2014 corn maze theme, Midland University Vikings, (4) Challenge Course, (5) climb the Elephant Steps

Complete your Bucket List at:
Camp Fontanelle
Camp Fontanelle has what your troop needs:
• Leadership through our Challenge Course
• Merit Badge opportunities
• Overnight facilities
• Fire rings, hiking trails,
• Fun, Fun, Fun
Contact us to arrange your Scout activity
402-478-4296
CampFontanelle.com
Fontanelle@greatplainsumc.org
9677 County Road 3, Fontanelle, NE
A camp of the Great Plains United Methodist Conference
FAMOUS DAVE'S
Legendary Pit
BAR-B-QUE

- BELLEVUE  (402) 934-2300
- BENSON  (402) 333-6391
- COUNCIL BLUFFS  (712) 256-1221
- EAGLE RUN  (402) 779-8600
- MILLARD  (402) 829-1616

WE CATER! 402-699-5555
Durham Scout Center
12401 WEST MAPLE ROAD
OMAHA, NE 68164
P: 402.431.9BSA (9272)
F: 402.431.0444

Sioux City Scout Center
306 VIRGINIA STREET, SUITE C
SIoux City, IA 51101
P: 712.255.8846
F: 712.255.9587

Gottschalk Scout Shop
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