



2026-2027 Program Planning Kick-off & Training



Scouting America
Greater Alabama Council

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Scouting America Greater Alabama Council


2025 In Review

<p>15,208 Youth Served</p> <p>3,902 Cub Scouts 2,537 Scouts BSA 24 Venturing 25 Sea Scouts 245 Exploring</p>	<p>267 Scouting Units</p> <p>119 Packs 129 Troops 9 Crews 2 Ships 10 Posts</p>	<p>2,754 Volunteers</p> <p>211 Eagle Scouts 2,348 Summer Camp Attendees</p>
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How does our unit move forward?


Successful Units that attract and keep Scouts:

- Have leadership that is helpful, friendly, kind, trained, organized, and provide good communication.
- Have a strong annual program plan that is FUN!
- Ensure all Scouts and their families feel welcome.
- Have an easy to explain finance plan that funds the unit expenses AND offers a way for families to subsidize their Scouting journey.



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Families want to know 2 things:

What are we going to do?

How much is it going to cost?



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**THIS IS THE WAY WE'VE
ALWAYS DONE IT**



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Annual Program Planning


Is an Annual Unit Meeting to:

- Plan and Schedule your next year of program
- Create a Calendar
- Develop your Finance Plan

And Then: Share this with your families



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Council Events

Typical Unit Events

District Events

Notes: _____

- Cub Scout Event
- Scouts BSA Event
- Venturing Event
- Sea Scout Event



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Program Planning Conference - Steps for Success!

The program planning conference is a unit meeting to plan and schedule your next year of program along with creating the plan to pay for these activities. Start the meeting by outlining the importance of having a strong annual plan and state any rules you will follow during the meeting. While this meeting is similar for all units, please remember that in Troops and Crews the youth are the ones who should be leading this meeting. Training videos are available in myscouting.org or at www.bsa.org/unit-program-planning-and-finance/.

PRE-WORK

Before the scheduled face-to-face conference, the committee chair and unit leaders gather the following information:

- Key school and community event dates
- Personal dates that may affect your unit's activities
- Last year's unit annual plan (if you have one)
- Important chartered organization dates
- District and Council dates (pages 16-39)
- Unit priorities and goals

To maximize the efficiency of your planning, the following people should attend the conference:

- Chartered Organization Representative
- Your unit commissioner (optional)
- For Troops & Crews: Youth Leadership
- All unit committee members & unit leaders
- Anyone else you think might be helpful

Step 1 - COLLECT

Take the dates you collected prior to the meeting and put them into your master calendar—including meeting dates—either on a hard copy or by plugging the information into an electronic calendar on a computer.

Step 2 - REVIEW

Review what the unit did last year. Ask questions like, what events went well, what events didn't go well? Did we earn the National Summertime Award? How did we do with weekly attendance? Did we participate in day camp, summer camp, or high adventure? Did we sell popcorn and camp cards? Feel free to ask as many questions as you want, but do not spend too much time on this, as the key issue is planning the upcoming year. Just use this research to help guide what you might want to keep, replace, or improve.

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Step 3 - BRAINSTORM

Brainstorm activities your unit might want to do in addition to weekly meetings. Include things such as: Blue and Gold Banquet, Courts of Honor, Pinewood Derby, Scouting for Food, Weekend Campouts, community service activities, youth recruitment events, District Events, Council Events, etc. Remember the brainstorming rule, which is anybody can suggest anything without critique or criticism. Feedback and analysis come later, after all the ideas have been captured. Once you have a list of things your unit might want to do, start prioritizing the list. Take a vote(s) on which activities to include on the schedule, then add the activities to your calendar.

Step 4 - ASSIGNMENTS

After the dates have been placed into the calendar, the next step is to assign the person who will be responsible for each event (if possible).

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Step 5 – Finance and Funding

Expense Categories:

Unit Expenses:

- Things that the unit typically pays for
- Advancement, Unit Gear, Pinewood Derby Cars, etc.

Family Expenses:

- Things that the family typically bears the cost of
- Cub Haunted, Uniform, Weekend Campouts, Summer Camp, etc.

IMPORTANT! Your funding plan needs to fund BOTH!

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**Your funding plan needs to fund the unit expenses
AND
offer a way for families to subsidize their Scouting journey.**

The screenshot shows the Scoutbook app interface. On the left is a navigation menu with options like 'Edit Profile', 'Extended Information', 'Membership', 'Payments Log', 'Connections', 'Quick Entry', 'Advancement', 'Awards', and 'Leadership'. On the right, the 'Payments Log' is displayed, showing a total of -\$190.00. Below the total, there are three payment entries: 'Summer Camp Payment' for -\$150.00, 'Summer Camp' for -\$20.00, and 'Annual Dues' for -\$20.00. A blue arrow points from the 'Payments Log' menu item to the payment log area.

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Scout Accounts are important because

INCENTIVES MATTER!

Example 1:
Our Pack charges dues of \$225 which covers all Pack activities for the year. These dues are paid in mid-November as part of the re-charter process. Families participate in our Popcorn Sale from Aug to Oct. From the commission earned, our Pack keeps just 20% and 80% goes into the Scout's account in Scoutbook. The family can use these funds for anything Scouting related including paying the \$225 Pack dues, registration fees for events like Cub Haunted, and purchasing their uniform.

Example 2:
Our Troop sells Christmas trees. Scouts work 3 shifts but can work more if available. Our Troop keeps about 30% of the commission to cover unit expenses. Based on the number of shifts they work; the rest goes into the Scout's Accounts in Scoutbook. Scouts can use these funds to pay for anything Scouting related including uniforms, weekend campouts, Summer Camp, and NYLT. We also encourage our Scouts to participate in the Council Popcorn and Camp Card sale as a way to fund their Scout Adventures.


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Step 6 - PUBLISH YOUR PLAN

Review your plan to ensure you have captured everything your unit wants to do in the upcoming year. Include your unit's funding plan with the expectations of each Scout/family. Publish your plan and get it to each family. Sharing the annual plan with your families could be the most important step in retaining your Scouts and building tenure. Create a printable flyer that can be given to new and prospective families.

Annual program planning is an ongoing process. Review the plan regularly to make sure you are still on track. Additional resources including examples can be found at www.1bsa.org.



For Scouts BSA, Sea Scout, & Venturing Units:
The process of this meeting is the same but please remember that in Troops, Crews, and Ships the youth are the ones who are holding and leading this meeting.

There are training videos on our website 1bsa.org

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Council & District Program Support



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Scouts BSA Summer Camp

CAMP-COMER
THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Camp Sequoyah
THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

2026 CAMP SEQUOYAH C/S Leader Guide

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Get ready for fun and adventure with Cub Scouts!

Cub Scout Fishing Derbies-
-September - November
-9am-12pm

Date	Location
September 12	Joe Wheeler Marina
September 12	East Lake, Bhm
September 26	Sylvania Lake
October 3	Camp Sequoyah
October 17	Aldridge Gardens
November 7	Huntsville
November 7	Indian Springs School, Pelham

Cub Haunted Weekends-
-Registration will open early August
-Camp Comer = 6 different sessions
-Westmoreland = 1 Session (Oct. 16-17)

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Get ready for fun and adventure with Cub Scouts!

Joy to the Woods Holiday Campout
December 11-13

Cub Scout Cast Iron Quest
June 6th
Sloss Furnaces National Historic Landmark

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Get ready for fun and adventure with Cub Scouts!



Webelos and Arrow of Light Resident Camp
 July 12-15
 Camp Comer
 REGISTRATION OPEN!

Cub Scout Summer Camp
 July 15-18
 Camp Comer
 REGISTRATION OPEN!

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Scouting for Food



Late October is Door Hanger Distribution

November is Food Pick-up and Drop Off

Drop-off dates will be announced later in 2026

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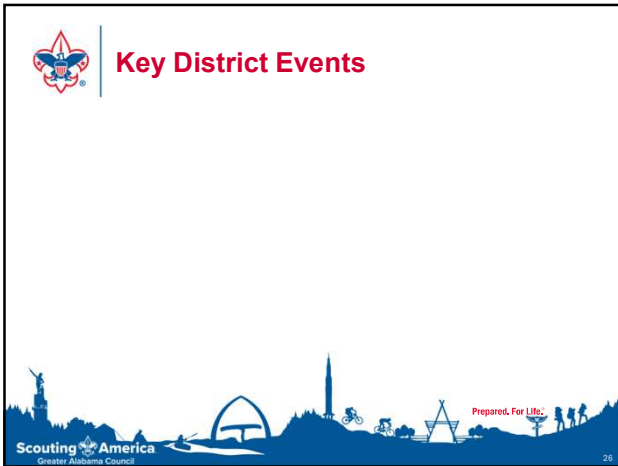
Prepared For Life.

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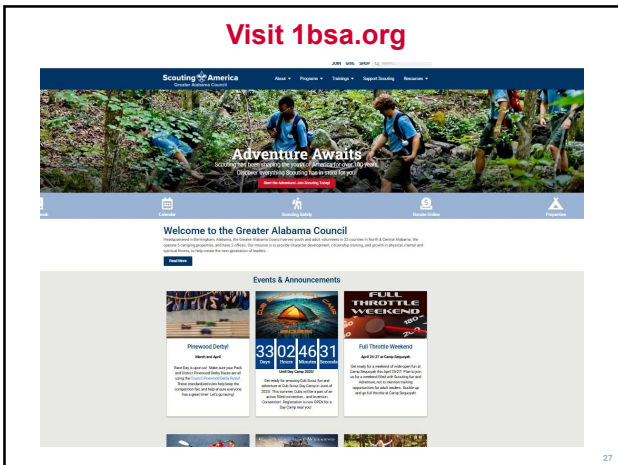
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