

Cub Scout Pack 425 Annual Planning Notes

Change History:

<i>August 14th, 2009 – Initial Annual Planning Meeting and first draft</i>
<i>August 17th, 2009 – Minor amendments based on followup email discussions (sections 4f, 5b)</i>
<i>August 30th, 2009 – 2nd Annual Planning Meeting (sections 2d through 2h, 3i)</i>
<i>September 16th, 2009 – Minor addition based on membership changes (section 2b)</i>

1. Introduction – “We Are Here → X”
 - a. Reviewed recent events and the time pressures that have led to some stress and miscommunication. Popcorn deadlines, roundup date, theoretical August pack meeting put us in a pinch, and we had a hard time finding a time for the planning meeting where enough people could attend... and at that had a limited couple of hours to do so.
 - b. Discussed the importance of teamwork, that we’re going through a rocky transitional period but that we have a good team and good potential if we just work together. Briefly mentioned that we’re at a new beginning and should not put a lot of focus on past “Failures” but rather look forward with “opportunities for improvement” in mind.
 - c. Reviewed our raison d’etre, the Purposes of Scouting and Core Values, stressing Cooperation, Respectful Relationships, and Positive Attitude.
 - d. Reviewed the purpose of the meeting and what we had to try and get through (Evaluation, Goal Setting, Program Features, Calendaring, Budgeting, and Communication).
2. Goals
 - a. Increase pack membership – 11 new boys so we reach ~20 total.
 - b. Increase pack leadership – at least one new leader, and fill the roles of Committee Chair, Fundraising Chair, and Tiger and Bear Den Leaders. *[Edit 9/16: Add Treasurer to the list due to Sue’s departure. Also, looks like we have a new Bear Den Leader already.]*
 - c. Service Projects – shed construction at the Fish & Game Club. Relocation of accumulated Pack paraphernalia from the Fitzgibbons’ garage.
 - d. Achieve National Den Award (per Den) *[Edit 8/30: Clarified that these “per Den” goals are at the discretion of the Den Leaders, but as a Pack our goal is to support those efforts as needed.]*

- e. Achieve Rudyard Kipling Award (per Den) *[Edit 8/30: Clarified that these “per Den” goals are at the discretion of the Den Leaders, but as a Pack our goal is to support those efforts as needed.]*
 - f. Achieve Cub Scout Outdoor Activity Award (per Den) *[Edit 8/30: Clarified that these “per Den” goals are at the discretion of the Den Leaders, but as a Pack our goal is to support those efforts as needed.]*
 - g. Achieve Cub Scouts World Conservation Award (per Den) *[Edit 8/30: Clarified that these “per Den” goals are at the discretion of the Den Leaders, but as a Pack our goal is to support those efforts as needed.]*
 - h. Discussed 2009 Centennial Quality Unit Award but at this point it is an unattainable goal. We will review individual criteria later in the year just for reference. *[Edit 8/30: Aaron suggested there may still be room to negotiate with our Unit Commissioner. It is at least worth discussing, and we will see.]*
 - i. Improve Communication with the Pack as a whole and parents in particular.
 - j. Achieve Popcorn sales targets to cover the annual budget.
3. Program Features
- a. Popcorn Sales
 - b. Pack Monadnock Hike
 - c. Pinewood Derby (but not regionals)
 - d. Fishing Derby
 - e. Gaming Lock-In
 - f. Halloween Costume Party
 - g. Holiday “Sponsor a Family in Need”
 - h. Holiday Potluck Dinner
 - i. ~~Holiday Caroling~~ *[Edit 8/30: Replaced with The Great American Downtown/Holiday Stroll on Main Street Nashua on 11/28].*
 - j. Blue & Gold Ceremony
 - k. Webelos Graduation
 - l. Pack Master Training for Leaders
 - m. Ringling Bros Barnum & Bailey Circus
 - n. Yankee Siege Trebuchet
 - o. Scouting For Food
 - p. Additional ideas discussed that may be filled in as the second half of the year gets filled in on the calendar (incomplete due to meeting time constraints).
4. Calendaring
- a. Filled in events up through December. A couple dates need to be double-checked for availability. See attached calendar for details.
 - b. Popcorn kickoff set for 8/20 – need to get Show & Sell orders in by 8/28. Becky is handling the details.
 - c. Need to confirm school availability for Roundup date of 9/10.
 - d. Need to determine Popcorn sales Blitz dates together.

- e. Pack meetings will continue to be the third Friday of every month. No apparent conflicts with holidays, etc, but we will confirm each date with the Fish & Game Club to double-check
 - f. Committee meetings will continue to be the first Sunday of every month. We may want to discuss changing this in the future if it helps with securing a better venue. *[Followup discussions 8/17 we realized the September one is Labor Day weekend. Rescheduled and completed during 2nd Annual Planning meeting 8/30].*
5. Budget
- a. Initial budget draft was quickly identified as too ambitious. We would like to cover activity and equipment expenses, camp fees, etc through the Pack budget so that parent's do not have to dip into their own pockets as often, but this is not sustainable unless fundraising drastically exceeds expectations. Removed budget line items for Museum of Science sleepover, uniform assistance, Webelos graduation, etc. Please see attached budget spreadsheet for details.
 - b. Raised the possibility of increasing Annual Dues in the face of the fact that registration fees were increased, but opted not to. We will take a smaller share for the Pack to keep this at \$50. *[Edit 8/17: Followup discussion ratified this].*
 - c. Decided that 50% of popcorn profits will be placed in each Scout's Scout Account. Last year 100% was placed in Scout Accounts, but at that time Popcorn was not a major initiative counted on to support the budget.
 - d. Discussed what the average popcorn sales per scout would need to be to cover the budget as drafted. After amendments this breaks down to approximately \$223 per scout. Additional fundraising efforts throughout the year are also possible to supplement this as needed.
6. Communication
- a. Discussed briefly our goal to communicate more effectively and engage parents more.
 - b. Try to use various communication methods to reach out to everyone:
 - i. Website (www.pack425nashua.org)
 - ii. Possibly share additional leader contact info, cell phones, IM contacts, etc – up to individual leader's comfort levels.
 - iii. Newsletter – possibly distribute in advance of pack meeting (cost?). Rick suggested that we include fun activities for the scouts, not just news stuff for the parents.
 - iv. Facebook page – not a regular user account, but an info page where people can follow updates (as companies, celebrities, etc often do). Questions raised about policy and security concerns... minors able to participate, or just for adults? What is the benefit? Eric and Becky will take action item to investigate further and check back with the committee before pursuing this.
 - v. Parent nights – we should have better luck getting the Fish & Game Club as long as we avoid Fridays. Possibly a couple times a year. Eric & Becky are also pursuing some other venue ideas.

- vi. Committee meetings – parents should be invited to participate, subject to finding a better venue.
- vii. Parent Participation Form – interesting idea, gets across the message that we do need parents to chip in, but as phrased there are some things on the sample document that we probably don't want to offer (will be selected by event coordinator, not based on volunteers). Sue suggested simplifying the point system. Eric will take action item to revise and bring back to the committee for review.
- viii. Encouraged leaders to keep in touch, express concerns, not let the pack suffer through any surprises like what happened with the Wolf Den last year. Reiterated teamwork and cooperation will help get us through.