

“It’s A Great Day For Scouting”

IV. “Ideal Year of Scouting”

One would think that our CO, St. Patrick’s Church/Elementary School was using the same format as the “Ideal Year of Scouting,” because every June all of other committees, some that are new like our, meet with forms already turned in with our Mission Statement, what our moneys are used for, and our first, second, etc. choices of where we want to meet, plus which day for our Committee, Pack, and Dens, to be put on our CO’s calendar.

At our first planning meeting in August 2003, our meetings were already scheduled. Then our leaders were asked to share the Achievements and Activities each month that corresponded with the monthly themes. Our CA #2 (Cub Master Assistant), responsible for pack operations, had each den scheduled to do certain parts of each pack meeting, for example opening flag ceremony, skits, and songs. After our “School Night for Scouting,” held each September, each Tiger Cub TL asked each Tiger Cub Scout family to choose, which monthly activity they would handle related to, that month’s theme, finalizing our year calendar.

Another part of the “Ideal year of Scouting,” has to do with recruitment for scouts, which is scheduled in September’s “School Night for Scouting,” and “Spring Into Scouting,” in April, targeting boys in kindergarten. To prepare for these, our CO allows us to put up posters, put fliers in the bulletins given out at all Masses on the weekend before the events, as well as announcing them at each Mass. In addition, our school office sends out notes to all of the boys and their families.

They also support our BSA sanctioned Fund Raisers, which moneys earned by our Pack are for summer camps and other activities. One of our District’s “Great Expectations” is using some of that money also, to bring down the costs of scouting. Our CO also is involved in the leadership of our Pack, where we match the skills of our scout families with the positions that use those skills. That is why we created the position of CA #3, who is responsible for Membership Retention and Recruitment; the latter we do year around with the help of our scouts by, wearing their scout uniform to school on meeting days. This can possibly help a scout earn a Recruiting Strip when a friend joins

our pack. Our PT (Pack Trainer) is responsible for making sure our new leaders are trained, letting them know when the training they need is available, and which sometimes, facilitates some of the training. However, it doesn't end there; but also lets our leaders know what they need to do, in earning the certificate, and the Square Knot for their position, such as four Roundtables, or one "University of Scouting," held at Girls and Boys Town every November. By following those needs, our leaders do certain things expected of them, in service to our Scouts and Scout families.

In 2003, one of our WLs (Webelos Den Leader), and our CA #2 went to the "University of Scouting", earning their Bachelor's Degree in Scouting Sciences, and they both went to Wood Badge training, earning their beads, in the fall of 2004. Because of them, we have several other leaders planning to go to both training programs, by each fall each year. We have many of our leaders, who have already earned their first Square Knot, every year. As I see it, the most important part of the "Ideal Year Of Scouting", is having a strong succession plan, which involves each Leader to look for their own replacement, by the end of their 2nd year, in their current position. This skill helps each leader understand how to recruit, new leaders, and new Scouts, which can assist them, when they end up in a position, as a CM, Membership Chair, CC, and or PT, etc. This is what helps strengthen the Unit, whether it is a Pack, Troop, or Venture Crew.