

Itinerary

2026-2027 Program Planning



OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

Outdoor programs and activities are an essential method to achieving the aims of Scouting America. Overnight camping opportunities help prepare Scouts and families for their Scouting journey as well as helps Scouts earn rank advancements, merit badges, and awards.

Packs: It is recommended that packs plan at least two camping opportunities throughout the year.

Troops: Troops should plan monthly camping opportunities throughout the year in addition to a week-long resident camp.

**These can be Council hosted events or Unit hosted events.
Summer and Winter Resident camps are Council Hosted only.**

OTHER CAMPING & PROGRAM RESOURCES

These additional resources are helpful with planning outdoor activities



**Guide to
Safe Scouting**



SAFE Checklist



**Age Appropriate
Guidelines**



**Safeguarding
Youth and Adult
Supervision**

CUB SCOUT CAMPING

In the South Texas Council, we have several opportunities available for you to register as a Pack, Den, or individual family. Details and registrations can be found by scanning the QR code



To go camping as a Pack, outside of a Council or District activity, one registered leader from your unit must have the Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation (BALOO) training and be in attendance for the duration of the event. Upcoming BALOO training opportunities can be found on the council calendar. Hazardous Weather training is required for all trained leaders.

If you are attempting to camp at a non-Scouting facility, please contact the Council Office to see if that location is appropriate or to ask for appraisal of the location.

SCOUTS BSA CAMPING

Scouts BSA troops have many opportunities for camping within and outside of the South Texas Council. More information can be found by scanning the QR code



Hazardous Weather and Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills (IOLS) training is required for all trained leaders.

Camp & Facility Rentals

Packs, Troops, individual families, and even outside organizations can utilize our council camping facilities all year. We have several cabins and buildings at Camp Karankawa and Camp Huisache that are great for a winter lock in, a fall fun day, a family reunion, corporate retreat, or even a weekend campout. Facilities and activities can include cooking spaces, restroom facilities, indoor or outdoor sleeping spaces, fishing, indoor and outdoor classrooms, and more. To find out more information about Camp Rentals, please scan the QR code



Action Item: Get outdoors and plan a campout for your unit. Either join one of the Council opportunities or plan your own.

CHECKLIST FOR THE IDEAL SCOUTING YEAR

- Bookmark this guidebook on your browser
- Attend Unit Program Planning Work Shop
- Review the materials, including this guide
- Schedule a brainstorming session with the Scouts
- Schedule unit committee meeting to plan your calendar and budget
- Visit with your District Executive about your plans
- Get leaders trained as needed
- Make copies of your Unit Calendar for new and current families
- Commit to the Popcorn Sale
- Keep reviewing and updating your Calendar and Budget throughout the year
- Ask for help from adults and families in your unit
- Have a FANTASTIC year of Scouting!

PROGRAM PLANNING CALENDAR

The next several pages provide a monthly calendar beginning in August 2026 through July 2027. This is presented in a “snapshot” format. This quick reference look should be used to support planning and preparation for the upcoming program year.

Each event is color coded based on Scouting Program.

See the key below:



Cub Scout Activities



All Scout Events



Scouts BSA Activities



Office & Scout Shop Closures



Adult Activities

Although you should plan your whole year, your Calendar isn't set in stone. Do not be afraid to make changes as needed, as long as you communicate those changes to your families.



Action Item: Complete your calendar and submit to your District Executive/Unit Commissioner. Also, make sure you bring plenty of copies to your recruitment nights.

PLAN YOUR CALENDAR

We all know the saying, “Those who fail to plan, plan to fail.” These plans do not need to be perfect, but they do need to exist. One of the biggest pieces of your plan is your unit calendar. There are many ways to calendar but at the core you need: What are you doing, when are you doing it, and where are you doing it? As you are planning you can have a written or digital draft but once finalized, you should have a nice copy that can be distributed via email and hard copy.

AUGUST 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
					Order of the Arrow Weekend	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 Mission Control Launch Rally
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23/30	24/31	25	26	27	28	29

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5 Office Closed
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Office Closed					International Camporee	
13 Int Camporee	14	15	16	17	18	19 Fishing Derby Beach Cleanup
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

OCTOBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
					Toughest Scout Challenge	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
					Woodbadge Weekend 1	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Woodbadge Wknd #1					Cub Fam Campout @ Huisache	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
					Cub Fam Campout @ Karankawa	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Cub Family Camp @ Camp Karankawa						

NOVEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
						Javelina Campout
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
			Office Closed			Woodbadge Wknd #2
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Woodbadge Wknd #2						Conservation Day @ Karanawa
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
				Office Closed		
29	30					

DECEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
					OA Fellowship Vigil & Banquet	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
OA Fellowship				Council Annual Business Meeting	Dec 31 - Unit Renewals Due	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
				Office Closed		
America 250 Celebration @ Camp	28	29	30	31	1	America 250 Celebration @ Camp
Scouts BSA Winter Camp Week 1			Winter Camp 2			
Office Closed						

JANUARY 2027

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Scouts BSA Winter Camp Week 2						
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	Office Closed					
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
						Council Awards Reception
31						

FEBRUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
					OA Fellowship @ Karankawa	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
OA Fellowship	Scouting America's 117 th Anniversary					Council Coordinated Meeting Del Mar Merit Badge College
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	Office Closed					
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
						Eagle Scout Reception
28						

MARCH

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
						Workday at Camp Karankawa
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
					Cub Family Campout at Camp Karankawa	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Cub Family Campout					Office Closed	
28	29	30	31			
Office Closed						

APRIL

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 Workday @ Camp Huisache
11	12	13	14	15	16 Cub Family Campout @ Huisache	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 OA Fellowship Ordeal @ K	1 Workday @ K

MAY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
2 OA Fellowship	3	4	5	6	7	8 Unit Program Planning Extravaganza
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31 Office Closed					

JUNE

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Scouts BSA Summer Camp						
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

JULY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3 Office Closed
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
National Youth Leadership Training						
Office Closed						
11 NYLT	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 Scouts BSA Mini Camp @ K

KEY DATES

Please keep in mind these important deadlines and administrative dates as you are planning for your Calendar and Budget

JULY

- Communicate Join Scouting Event to District Executive & Order Membership Supplies

AUGUST

- 8 - Mission Control Rally: Launch Scouting to the Next Level!
- 12 - Popcorn Q & A ZOOM Meeting
- 16 - Popcorn Initial Order Due by 5PM
- 27 - Popcorn can be picked up at the Coastal Bend Food Bank.

OCTOBER

- (Troops) Register your Unit for Winter Camp
- 5 - Payment 1 Popcorn Money Due Online by Midnight
- 23 - Popcorn Replenishment Orders Due by 5PM

NOVEMBER

- Arrow of Light Plans Begin
- 5 - Popcorn Restock Orders Delivered to Units
- 20 - Final Popcorn Payment Due by 5PM

DECEMBER

- (Packs) Submit your Arrow of Light Crossover plans to your receiving troops.
- End of Month - Recharter Turn In Deadline
- 31 - Last Day to Claim Popcorn Prizes Through Trails End

APRIL

- Meet with your DE on Calendar/Budget planning

MAY

- Meet with your DE on Calendar/Budget planning
- 8 - Unit Program Planning Extravaganza

JUNE

- Turn in Calendar and Budget to District Executive/Unit Commissioner

UNIT PLANNING

Units who plan a robust Scouting year see success. Their families are more engaged and willing to volunteer, Scouts have more fun, and it's an all around better program. The two main components are planning your activities or program and then figuring out what your program year will cost your families. Use the information and tools in this session as you start this planning process.

SIX STEPS

We have seen it time and time again, the units who plan and communicate are the units who thrive. **There are Six Steps for Units to have an Ideal Year of Scouting.**

1

PLAN

Work your way through this playbook and map out your year. We will focus on your calendar and budget.

2

FUND

Determine the expenses from all the activities, advancements, camping, training, etc. This will help you determine how much fundraising.

3

GROW

When you have a good plan, communicate it to your current and potential Scouts and to engage more families in the Scouting Program.

4

TRAIN

Using the Council Calendar included, promote trainings to your current and new leaders; every Scout deserves a trained leader. Plus, it helps the leader, too!

5

RECHARTER

Re-register your unit in December of 2026 with any new youth and leaders. You'll want to ensure this is done on time to avoid a lapse in registration.

6

ASSESS

Reflect on your year. Hold an "After Action" style meeting. Get input from all involved parties; Scouts, Families, Leadership, District Committee, etc.

To help you with this, please ensure you schedule a meeting with your District Executive. Be sure to gather information about your unit to share with them. They will be able to help you with struggles and answer any questions.



Action Item: Schedule your Planning Meeting with your DE/Unit Commissioner by July 30th

UNIT PLANNING

Be Prepared.

What is the planning playbook all about? The goal of this document is to help our units plan their program year. Many factors go into effective planning but here are a few key steps to make your planning process go smoothly.

After Action Review

As a committee, reflect on your current program year. How did this year go? What went well and what didn't? What do you want to see change? Having this information as you plan for next year is helpful.

Yearly Activities

What does the unit plan to do this year? Of course, you'll have your normal meetings, and you should plan for some cost with these. What else is above and beyond? Plan your camp outs, a visit to the zoo, a trip to a local pool, council activities, etc. Have a brainstorming session with your scouts; what do THEY want to do? Make sure to reference the Council Calendar in this playbook to plan activities.

Number of Scouts

Who do you have currently AND how many do you expect to recruit this year? Have a good goal helps you with your budget. Make this a realistic number!

Cost

Now we know what we are doing but what will it cost to make that happen? The best way to figure cost is to try to find a "per Scout" cost. That way, even if every Scout cannot attend, you know what to charge the ones who can. Don't forget to include cost for den meeting activities, registration, advancements, pack meetings, etc

Popcorn Goal

One great way to pay for the costs is to sell popcorn. Units in the South Texas Council can earn up to 40% commission for popcorn sales. That can go a long way in paying for your year of Scouting.

Oops!

So you planned your year but something changed. Maybe you recruited more youth or sold less popcorn. That's okay! Regroup and replan. Then communicate those changes to your families.



Action Item: Plan your unit's brainstorming session and encourage all families to attend. Use that in your committee planning meeting.

PLAN YOUR CALENDAR

One question new leaders, and even tenured ones, ask is, “What should be on my calendar?” While that is greatly up to your unit, here are some major dates that we often see in a Scouting year along with when they are typically scheduled. This is not an exhaustive list. If you need more details or have questions, please reach out to your district team.

- **Unit Meetings:** Make sure you include the dates of all your meetings. Including parent meetings, committee meetings, den and pack meetings.
- **District Meetings:** To ensure you stay up to date on everything in your district, plan to attend your district’s monthly Roundtable! It doesn’t need to be the same leader each month, but having unit representation is key.
- **Service Projects:** Include a service project or two with your charter partner or local school. If you don’t know what to do, reach out to them and ask. They’ll have plenty of ideas for you.
- **Unit Activities:** You know, the really fun part of Scouting. There are a lot of extras you can do, here are a just a few that we see often.
 - **Pinewood Derby:** This fun event is typically held in February, March, or April. Some units will include a workshop or two in the months before to help families prepare their cars.
 - **Camp Outs:** Some units have these monthly, some just a few times a year. Whatever works for your families schedules, just make sure to plan them.
 - **Special Outings:** This can include smaller trips like a visit to the local fire or police station or bigger trips like an overnight at the zoo.
- **Council & District Activities:** You can use the calendar in this guide to help plan these events. These include, Day Camp, Summer and Winter Camp, Family Weekends, Scouting for Food, etc
- **Popcorn Sale:** Don’t forget to include not only the council wide popcorn dates but your unit specific popcorn dates.
- **Blue and Gold:** This is where you celebrate and rank up each Scout. This is a huge scout party, typically held in February, March, or April. Make sure you plan to have your Family Investment in Character presentation during this event. Communicate this date to your district team.
- **Membership Dates:** Ensuring you have your membership plan figured out early is the key to gaining more youth AND adults. Some dates to keep on your radar:
 - **Open House/Back to School Dates:** These will typically occur in August/September and is an opportunity for your unit to have a booth to welcome potential families and invite them to your sign up night.
 - **Recruitment Night:** also known as Sign Up Night or Join Scouting Night. This is where new families come to sign up and get important information like the calendar we are currently planning. These typically happen a week or so after your Open House nights. Troops: Having your own recruitment night is just as important but do not forget to help your local packs with theirs.

UNIT MANPOWER

Planning your calendar and budget is part of a successful Scouting year but the other very important part is making sure you have the leaders to make it happen. While there are minimum positions needed to recharter, you want to strive to go above and beyond that. Often additional leaders are needed to make all of your plans happen. Over the Spring and Summer, start transitioning any leadership that will be taking over in the Fall. Ensure all Key 3 members (Charter Representation, Cub Master/Scout Master, and Unit Committee Chair) are connected to the District Committee and District Executive. To make transitions as smooth as possible, start them early!

Tips for Recruiting Adult Leaders:

Get them Early!: Have parents fill out an application during your recruitment night. Now they are ready to go as soon as they are secured in a role.

100 Point Concept: There are many examples of the 100 point concept. The idea is that every adult/family volunteers for 100 points. Cub Master, Committee Chair, etc are 100 points because they have quite the life. Other committee positions may be 20-40 points based on the role. The idea is that if every family/adult volunteers for 100 points, the leadership positions are evenly spread and the unit has more overall family involvement.

Training: Get them trained! Leaders who have been trained are more confident in the job they are doing and are willing to continue to volunteer.

Personal Ask: It's easy to say no when a whole group is asked to volunteer but if you have personal asks, someone may be more inclined to say yes to a position.

Have a New Member Coordinator: Not only is the New Member Coordinator position huge in helping new families feel welcome, they can help see who would be great as a unit leader.



Action Item: During your planning meeting with your District Executive/Unit Commissioner, make sure to bring up any upcoming vacancies. If you haven't asked an adult in your unit to volunteer for something lately, ask!

As always, if you have any questions or need additional information, please reach out to your District Executive or Unit Commissioner.