

Mid-America Council Unit Program Planning 2025-2026

Scouting  America™

Unit Program Planning Playbook

Bookmark this page

Browse through this during the presentation and ask any questions you may have.

You can also find this link at MACScouts.org at any time.

Unit Program Planning (UPP)

What is Unit Program Planning?

- Units plan their year and budget to have the most successful program

Why do we do it?

- A stronger program for Scouts and Families
- More parental involvement
- Scouting is simpler, easier, and more fun
- Eliminate out of pocket expenses
- Unparalleled experiences for Scouts and their family

Plan Your Year

- What do the Scouts want to do?
- What worked last year? What didn't?
- What are activities that have been successful in your unit?
- Set a committee meeting and plan your year
- Fill out dates in the calendar template on MACScouts.org

Remember to look at school, church, sport, etc calendars during this planning time!

Calendar Tool

_____ 's 2025-2026 Calendar							
August				February			
Date	Activity	Time	Location	Date	Activity	Time	Location
September				March			
Date	Activity	Time	Location	Date	Activity	Time	Location

Use this template, or another format that works for you, to plan your year!

BRAINSTORM:

Take 5 minutes as a group or with the unit next to you.

**What's an activity they currently do that
you'd want to try with your unit?**

Scouting is Year-Round!

- Plan for all 12 months - some will be busier than others
- Include:
 - Pack & Den Meetings, Troop, and Crew Meetings
 - Advancement Opportunities
 - Service Projects
 - Scouting for Food
 - Popcorn Sale & Camp Cards
 - Membership Recruitment
 - Day Camp & Resident Camp
 - Unit Weekend Camping
 - District/Council Activities
 - Blue and Gold or Court of Honors

**Communicate your calendar and plans to families.
They will participate if they know what's coming up!**

Fund Your Program

_____ 's 2025-2026 Budget									
August Planning					August Actuals				
Date	Activity	Cost	Est. Attendance	Cost Per Scout	Act. Cost	Act. Attendance	Act. Cost/Scout	Notes	
		0							
September Planning					September Actuals				
Date	Activity	Cost	Est. Attendance	Cost Per Scout	Act. Cost	Act. Attendance	Act. Cost/Scout	Notes	
		0							

- Use the unit program planner sheet on the MAC webpage
- Plan your budget based on your calendar
 - Include Unit Expenses (recharter, advancement, etc) and activity costs
- Use this to help find your Popcorn Goal
- Throughout the year, use this to track actual expenses

Fundraising Opportunities

- Utilize fundraising to help your families pay for Scouting -
 - **Camp Card Sale:**
 - Starting in March!
 - Plan for 2026 sale in your Calendar
 - **Popcorn Campaign:**
 - 2025 sale will start September 5th
 - Commission
 - 50% Traditional (Storefront, Wagon, etc)
 - 40% Online
 - Commit to the sale today!
 - **Unit Fundraisers:**
 - Allowed as needed
 - MUST fill out a Unit Money Earning Application

Mid-America Council Unit Fees

Grow Your Program

- Recruit all year long!
 - It's not too late to plan a Spring Recruitment
- Plan Fall Recruitment now, Be Prepared
 - Get creative, what's a new way to get in front of families?
 - How can we meet potential new Scouts where they are?
 - Do you know your important fall dates yet? (Open House, 1st Day, etc)
- Recruit new adults all year long
- Unit succession plan for all leaders

Train Your Leaders

- Every Scout Deserves a Trained Leader
- Training online at anytime! [My.Scouting.org](https://my.scouting.org)
- **Updated MAC YPT Policy as of 1/1/2023** - If your YPT is not updated by the last day of the month in which it expires, your membership with Scouting America will be expired. You will need to cease involvement in all Scouting activities as a registered adult leader. Please note that there are no refunds or national and council membership dues.
 - Notification Schedule (in addition to notifications from National)
 - 15th for any that expire the following month
 - Email to Leader
 - 1st of the expiration month
 - Email to Leader AND Email to Key 3 of Unit
 - 15th of expiration month
 - Email and text to leader AND email to Key 3 of Unit

Renewal and Assess

Renewal

- Each year units & members must renew in November
- Make sure it's submitted with all current members - youth and adult!
- If your unit does not renew, you're expired and CANNOT continue meeting
- Attending renewal training in October should be on your Calendar

Assess

- Have after action review of the year
 - Include Scouts, Families, and Unit Leadership

**Calendar and Budget are due June 30th
to your District Executive.**

**Meeting with your DE should happen no
later than June 30th but sooner is better!**

Next Steps

- Bookmark the Unit Planning Playbook
- Attend Unit Program Planning Workshop
- Review the materials, including this powerpoint
- Schedule a brainstorming session with your Scouts
- Schedule unit committee meeting to plan your year
- Figure out your cost per Scout
- Set your Popcorn goal accordingly
- Visit with District Executive about your plans no later than June 30th
- What is missing to make your plan happen?
- Turn in your Calendar & Budget to your District Executive before June 30th
- Get leaders trained as needed
- Communicate out your Unit Calendar
- Review your calendar and budget throughout the year
- Have a fantastic year of Scouting!

If you get stuck, reach out to another unit and pick their brain, look at the Unit Program Planning Playbook, or reach out to your District Team!

QUESTIONS?