

2026 PLANNING PLAYBOOK



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COUNCIL SERVICE CENTERS & SCOUT SHOPS

Durham Scout Center & Gottschalk Scout Shop

12401 W. Maple Road

Omaha, NE

Office: Text or Call | 402-431-9272

MAC@scouting.org

Scout Shop: 402-431-0700

Grand Island Service Center & Scout Shop

2808 O'Flannagan St.

Grand Island, NE

308-382-3717

Sioux City Service Center & Scout Shop

4240 Hickory Lane - Ste 120

Sioux City, IA

402-431-0444

North Platte Service Center

503 E. 4th St - Ste 3

North Platte, NE

308-532-3110

COUNCIL FIELD STAFF

Metro Team

Ryan LaViolette | Black Hawk District Executive
Sam Kanne | Iron Horse District Director
Cynthia Killscrow-Lieb | Iron Horse District Executive
Samii Robey | Wagon Wheel District Executive
Vacant | Metro Team Field Director

Iowa Team

Keli Studyvin | Northwest Iowa District Executive
Ashley Wenck | Ohwahnasee District Executive
Ryan Merritt | Trailblazer District Executive
Abbie Gavette | War Eagle District Executive
Becky Mahoney | Iowa Team Field Director

Overland Trails Territory Team

Tammy Dugger | Buffalo Bill District Executive
Vacant | Covered Wagon District Executive
Kevin Boilesen | Five Rivers District Executive
Sharon Edic | Northeast Nebraska District Executive
David Plond | Overland Trails Territory Director



COUNCIL OUTDOOR INFORMATION

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

It is recommended that packs plan at least two camping opportunities throughout the year in addition to a summer camp.

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 Resident camp is 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 Mid-America Council, we have several opportunities available for you to register as a Pack, Den, or individual family. Details and registrations can be found at www.gocubcamping.org



Camp Amikaro

Camp Amikaro is the ultimate Cub Scout camping adventure. This 3-day, 2-night experience will include nightly campfire programs, activities such as STEM, target and range sports, nature, climbing, swimming, fishing, and more. Offered in June and July.

Day Camps

Day Camps are held throughout local communities and range from 1-5 days. Most camps will include STEM, nature, target and range sports, crafts, and games. Offered in June and July.

Family Weekends

Family Weekends are held at our local camps and are a fun time for the whole family. This is a great opportunity to bring older or younger siblings out to camp or for new families to get a taste of the Cub Scout camping experience. Activities typically include STEM, nature, target and range sports, fishing, climbing, crafts, and games. These programs are offered in May and October.

SCOUTS BSA CAMPING

Scouts BSA troops have many opportunities for camping within and outside of the Mid-America Council. More information on these can be found at www.goscoutcamping.org.

Camp Cedars

Camp Cedars in the Mid-America Council's Scouts BSA resident camp. This week-long summer camp offers Scouts an opportunity to earn up to 6 merit badges in addition to other awards and experiences. Each summer, there are over 50 merit badges offered as well as additional programs like Equestrian, ATVs, and more.

National High Adventure Bases

Scouts and adults from throughout MAC can join other and experience an adventure of a lifetime. Typically, units plan a High Adventure Base trip 18-24 months in advance. To find out more about all of the National HAB, visit: www.scouting.org/outdoor-programs/national-high-adventure-bases/

Order of the Arrow

For over 100 years, the Order of the Arrow (OA) has recognized Scouts and Scouters who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives. Members are known for maintaining camping traditions and spirit, promoting year-round and long-term resident camping, and providing cheerful service to others. Our local lodge hosts OA Service Weekends in May, August, and October. More information about the OA lodge is at: mac-bsa.org/camping-outdoors/high-adventure-2/



YEAR ROUND CAMPING

Packs

To go camping as a Pack, outside of a Council or District activity, one 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. One leader from your unit must also have current Hazardous Weather training. Both trainings are recommended for all leaders.

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

Troops

To go camping as a Troop, one leader must have current Hazardous Weather training. Additionally, Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills is highly encouraged.

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 Cedars, Camp Eagle, and Camp Wa-Kon-Da 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, sleeping spaces with bunk beds, fishing, hiking trails, indoor and outdoor classrooms, and more. Primitive camping is also available at Camp Whispering Cedars. to find out more information about Camp Rentals, visit campreservation.com/326/home



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



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. Rather than copying or printing these pages, consider pulling up the digital version by visiting macscouts.org

When viewing this calendar digitally, click on any entry on the calendar pages below to view full details for the event and to register.

All information about meetings of the district (commissioner meetings, committee meetings, and roundtables, will be published at www.mac-bsa.org/our-council/events-calendar/

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

AUGUST 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 Dino Day Camp OA Summer Induction Wkend
9 OA Wkend	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23/30	24/31	25	26	27	28	29 MB College

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 MAC Offices Closed	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18 Webelos Woods @ Cedars	19
20 	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

OCTOBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
					OA Fall Induction Weekend	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
OA Wkend					Fall Camporee @ Cedars	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Camporee					Haunted Family Weekend	
					Fur Trader's Rendezvous	
					Fall Camporee in Carroll, IA	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
HFW						
Rendezvous						
Camporee						

NOVEMBER

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

DECEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5 MB College, IA
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25 26 MAC Offices Closed	
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
MAC Offices Closed						

JANUARY 2027

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16 Winter Camporee @ Cedars
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Camporee	MAC Offices Closed					
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

FEBRUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 MAC Offices Closed	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

MARCH

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

APRIL

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

MAY

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

JUNE

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

KEY DATES

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

JULY

- Communicate Sign Up Night to District Executive and Order Membership Supplies

AUGUST

- TBD - Popcorn Initial Order Due

SEPTEMBER

- Date Varies - Popcorn Replenishment Orders Due

OCTOBER

- Submit your 2027 Camping Plans (Troops)
- Submit your ICC Presentation Date

NOVEMBER

- End of Month - Recharter Turn In Deadline
- Arrow of Light Plans Begin

DECEMBER

- Submit your 2027 Camping Plans (Packs)
- December 2nd: Character Luncheon

JANUARY

- TBD - Camp Card Orders Due

FEBRUARY

- TBD - Scouting for Food Commitments Due

MARCH

- Attend Unit Program Planning Training

APRIL

- Meet with your DE on Calendar/Budget planning

MAY

- Meet with your DE on Calendar/Budget planning

JUNE

- Turn in Calendar and Budget to District Executive

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 October/November 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 DE. 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 by June 30th 16

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 MAC earn 50% 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

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.

Sample Calendar

Here is a sample calendar on the council provided template:

_____ 's 2026-2027 Calendar							
August				February			
Date	Activity	Time	Location	Date	Activity	Time	Location
25-Aug	Den Meeting	6:00					
September				March			
Date	Activity	Time	Location	Date	Activity	Time	Location

Note: This is just one way to calendar. However you do it, just do it! Planning for your year is how you ensure the success of your unit!

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. Also, make sure you bring plenty of copies to your recruitment nights.

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 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 know as Sign Up Night or Join Scout 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.

PLAN YOUR BUDGET

These fees will need to be included per Scout, in addition to the fees built into your budget. Under the “Funding Your Program” header, you will see a summary based on the numbers you have input throughout the document. You do not have to use this template, but please ensure you include all necessary fees.

Fees to Include:

- **Registration Fees for Youth & Adults**
- **Advancement**
- **Handbooks**
- **Activities/Program Materials**
- **Training**
- **Camp**
- **Charter Fees**
- **Scout Life**
- **Other**

MID-AMERICA COUNCIL FEES

Effective 4/1/2024

Youth

\$25 Joining Fee
(New Scouts ONLY).
*Includes Handbook, Welcome Packet,
and Scout Life Magazine*

Annual Membership
\$156 per year
*\$156 per year prorated monthly
based on joining. Add \$15/yr for
Scout Life at recharter*

Monthly Membership
\$17 per month
*\$17 charged on/around the 15th of
each month. Scout Life Included
during subscription period.*

Adult

Annual Membership
\$65 per year

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 Form: There are many examples of the 100 point form. The idea is that every adult/family volunteers for 100 points. CM, CC, 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 NMC 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 DE, make sure to bring up any upcoming vacancies. If you haven't asked an adult in your unit to volunteer for something lately, ask!

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 Campaign
- 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!

As always, if you have any questions or need additional information, please reach out to your District Executive or MAC@scouting.org

