



PROGRAM PLANNING GUIDE 2024-25



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®
BAY AREA COUNCIL



WELCOME TO THE BAY AREA COUNCIL, BSA

The Bay Area Council, Boy Scouts of America welcomes new families to the fun, educational, and programming adventure of Scouting where youth spend their time outdoors, learning life-saving skills, citizenship, community, conservation and much more! We serve more than 5,000 members in Brazoria and Galveston Counties.

Cub Scouts (Packs serving boys. Packs serving girls.)

Kindergarten-5th grade or 5-10 years old

Scouts BSA (Troops serving boys. Troops serving girls.)

6th-12th grade or 11-17 years old

Sea Scouts (Ships)

8th grade and up or 14 through 20 years old, co-ed

Venturers (Crews)

13 and completed 8th grade or 14 through 20 years old, co-ed

Explorers (Posts)

8th grade and up or 14 through 20 years old, co-ed



Questions?

Contact your Scout Executive Charlie Tinsley at charlie.tinsley@scouting.org or your Field Director Kelly Meacham at kelly.meacham@scouting.org.

The council is made up of two counties, Brazoria and Galveston, and is divided into four districts.

COASTAL DISTRICT

Serving Bacliff, Bolivar, Dickinson, Galveston, Hitchcock, Kemah, La Marque, League City, San Leon, Santa Fe, and Texas City.

CRADLE OF TEXAS DISTRICT

Serving Brazoria, Brazosport, Churchill, Clute, Damon, Danciger, East Columbia, Freeport, Jones Creek, Lake Jackson, Liverpool, Old Ocean, Oyster Creek, Quintana, Richwood, Rosharon, Shady Acres, Surfside, Sweeny, West of the Brazos, West Columbia, and Wild Peach.

NORTHERN STAR DISTRICT

Serving Friendswood and Pearland.

THUNDERBIRD DISTRICT

Serving Alvin, Angleton, Danbury, Manvel, and the Shadow Creek area of Pearland.



HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Thank you for partnering with the Bay Area Council, Boy Scouts of America. As a volunteer, you play a critical role in helping to build character, leadership, and integrity in thousands of youth members.

Because strong units start with a solid foundation, the Bay Area Council is investing in your foundation by providing the tools necessary for you to plan your unit's ideal year of Scouting.

This includes developing a plan, building membership, recruiting leaders, and fundraising so you can deliver the best program possible while maintaining the Scouting legacy.

Every great project starts with a great plan. The same goes for Scouting. By following the Ideal Year of Scouting plan, you can expect to see...

- A stronger program at less personal cost to you
- Increased parental involvement
- More Scouts camping
- Higher retention
- More funding with less time spent fundraising
- A simpler, easier, and more enjoyable Scouting program

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath & Law.

WE PROVIDE COUNCIL ASSISTANCE

If you have questions or get stuck along the way, don't worry... we've got you covered! This guide and additional online resources are available at www.bacbsa.org/unit-resources. You can also contact us at **409.744.5206** and we'll connect you with a Scouting professional who can help you achieve your Ideal Year of Scouting.

**THE GREEN BOXES IN THIS GUIDE PROVIDE
ADDITIONAL COUNCIL ASSISTANCE & RESOURCES.**

PROGRAM PLANNING & FUNDRAISING

DOWNLOAD A YEAR OF EVENTS

The council offers a variety of camping opportunities, special events, training, and more for Scouts, adults and volunteers to help you deliver the best Scouting program possible! **Use the calendar at the end of this guide or visit www.bacbsa.org/unit resources.**

DEVELOPING YOUR YEARLY PROGRAM

Have a brainstorming session with key leadership and Scouting families to develop a list of program ideas for the Scouting year - usually following the same timeframe as a school year.

- **Evaluate:** Evaluate camping, events, field trips, and service project options to create an “approved” program list.
- **Vote:** Vote from that “approved” list. Have youth vote on their top three.
- **Finalize:** Put the program plan to paper. Be transparent and share your plan with all of your Scouting families.

FUNDING YOUR PROGRAM

So, you’ve got a great program plan, but how do you pay for it? Make a budget!*

STEPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL FUNDRAISER

1. Establish an annual plan using the budget planner.
2. Determine the cost of all activities, advancements, and camping events.
3. Set a fundraising goal and break it down per Scout to cover activities.
4. Put together an exciting fundraising kickoff.
5. Communicate Scouts’ sales goal. Consider a prize plan for encouragement.

A well-planned fundraiser prevents asking families for a unit fee when they join.

***To download the Unit Budget Planner, visit www.bacbsa.org/unit-resources.**

THE COUNCIL OFFERS A POPCORN FUNDRAISER

The council offers a popcorn fundraising opportunity each year in **July**. This is a great fundraiser for units to raise yearly operating funds. Scouts can reach a fundraising goal, earn their own way, and earn prizes along the way. For more information, visit www.bacbsa.org/popcorn.

PLAN YOUR IDEAL YEAR

Your unit should have an Annual Program Planning Conference (day). All leaders and interested parents should attend.

Follow these steps to build an awesome Scouting year calendar.

1. Plug in all school dates. Include closings, early release, etc.
2. Plug in all weekly unit meetings.
3. Plug in all Advancement Ceremonies (*Pack meetings should be once a month. Troop Courts of Honor should be at least once per quarter.*)
4. Plug in all District/Council events. (Cub events, Camporees, OA events, trainings, service projects, Roundtables, recruitment, etc.)
5. Plug in all unit outings/events. (Field trips, service events, Blue & Gold Banquets, derbies, etc.)
6. Plug in all deadlines such as popcorn, re-charter, event registrations, monies due.
7. Complete your Unit budget which will tell you how much money you need to raise.

[Download this guide & more at \[www.bacbsa.org/unit-resources\]\(http://www.bacbsa.org/unit-resources\).](#)

BUILDING MEMBERSHIP & RECRUITMENT

BUILDING SCOUTING

The next step for Scouting success is recruitment. Recruiting new youth is essential to ensure the longevity of any unit. The Bay Area Council has had some units in operation for more than 50 years!

SCHOOL NIGHT FOR SCOUTING

School Night for Scouting is our annual recruitment drive. From **August** to **October**, nearly 2,000 new youth will join the fun of Scouting. Your unit's School Night is one of the most critical events you will plan all year.

Here are a few helpful hints to ensure your unit's recruitment night is a success:

- Plan Your Ideal Year of Scouting
- Create an annual program plan
- Tie the plan to a budget
- Communicate the plan to new Scouting families

Meeting / Program Kick-off

Have a Marketing Plan - Get the word out about your School Night! Utilize marketing materials like fliers, posters, yard signs and social media promotion.

Offer More Ways to Join - Give families multiple opportunities to join. Conduct a recruitment event in **August** (School Night) as well as **September** and **October**. Utilize library bulletin boards, youth sports associations and more.

Select Adult Leaders - School Night should be about recruiting youth, not selecting leaders. Identify your leaders before the School Night or prior to your Parent Orientation Meeting.



PICK UP YOUR RECRUITMENT RESOURCES AT THE SERVICE CENTER

Membership and recruitment resources are available at the Edwin C. Northen Memorial Scout Service Center.

Resources include:

- Flyers
- New Parent Guide
- Posters
- Stickers
- Videos
- Yard signs
- & more!

Visit www.bacbsa.org/recruitment for more!

CAMPING & ADVANCEMENT

A major component program is adventure! Exciting programs are why youth join and stay in Scouting! It's our job as leaders to make sure adventure is at every turn.

SCOUT CAMPING

Camping is an integral part of the Scout program. Whether it's a weekend overnight or a week-long camp, Scouts who go camping stay in Scouting longer. It should be the goal of every unit to participate in at least five outdoor activities each year.

ADVANCEMENT

Recognition is important to a Scout! The advancement plan gives Scouts a sense of personal achievement as they earn badges and strengthens family understanding as adult family members work with Scouts on advancement projects. Advancement also keeps Cubs in Scouting longer. Aim for at least 75% of Cub Scouts advancing in rank each year.

SCOUTBOOK FOR ADVANCEMENT RECORDING

Harness technology and track advancements at www.scoutbook.com, a complimentary app provided by National BSA that allow unit leaders & parents to track a Scout's progress.

FIND COUNCIL CAMPING EVENTS

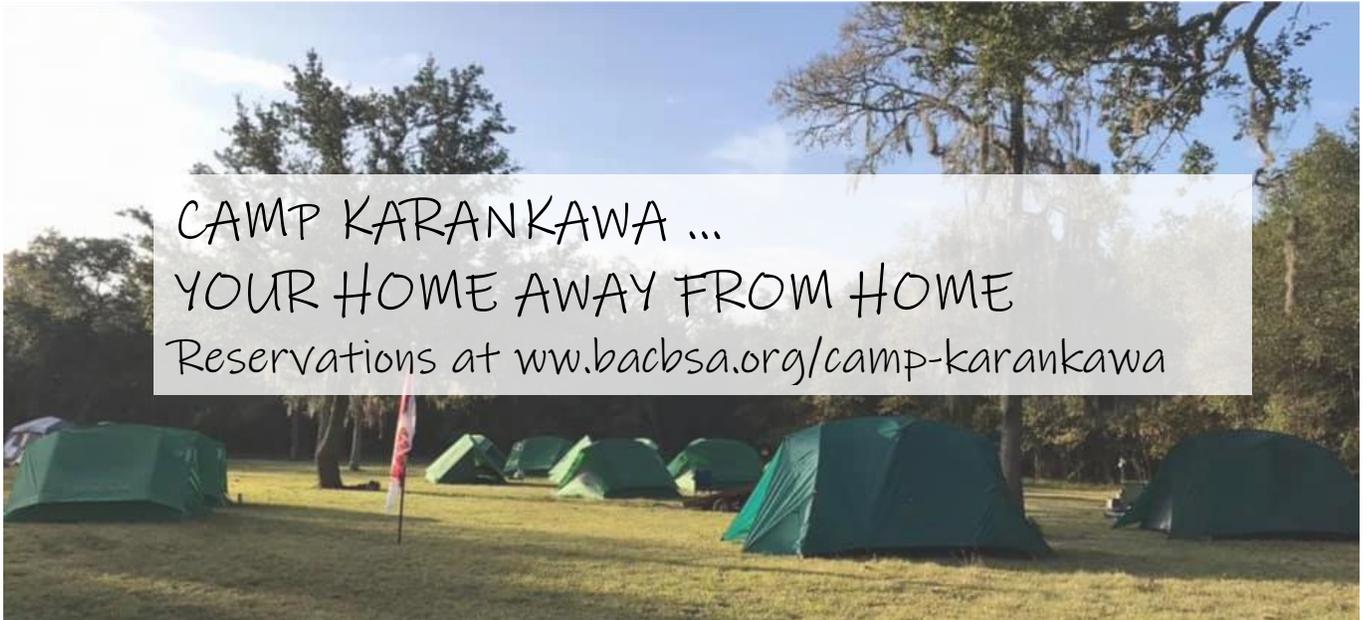
CUB-O-REES. Cub-o-rees introduce Scouts to camping with a theme where they are introduced to Scout games, shooting sports, swimming and more. It typically runs through a weekend in **March** and **April** and prepares Scouts for longer camps.

CUB DAY CAMP. Cub Day Camp is open to all Cub Scouts and will offer an unforgettable outdoor program within your district and typically runs 4-5 days a week in the evenings **June** and **July**.

SUMMER & FALL CAMP - These week-long camps for Scouts BSA members focus on Merit Badges tailored to help your Scout advance through the ranks and earn their Eagle Rank - the highest honor a Scout can earn.

For more, visit www.bacbsa.org, click Activities. Choose your Scouting Program.





CAMP KARANKAWA ...
YOUR HOME AWAY FROM HOME
Reservations at www.bacbsa.org/camp-karankawa

CAMP KARANKAWA YOUR HOME AWAY FROM HOME

Scouts and their families have the opportunity to
HAVE CAMP ALL TO YOURSELF
and build lasting memories in the great outdoors!

\$35 per weekend – In-council units
\$35 per weekend +\$10 per person – Out-of-council units

The fee helps cover the cost of camp improvements, maintenance, and utilities.
Shooting range & pool are available for use with proper supervision for additional fee.

CAMP KARANKAWA

3249 FM 1459 Rd., Sweeny, TX 77480

RESERVATIONS

Download the reservation form at www.bacbsa.org/camp-karankawa.
Camp Ranger DK Hopwood at donald.hopwood@scouting.org.



SUPPORT SCOUTS WITH POPCORN

www.bacbsa.org/popcorn

Have you signed up to sell popcorn this year? Get your unit poppin’

Popcorn Kick-off – July 9th or July 11th

Get trained, learn about the new app,
learn about the new prize system & more!

Show & Sell orders due – July 26th

Show & Sell orders distribution – August 10th

Show & Sell payments & Take Orders due – October 11th

Take Orders distribution – October 26th

Final payment due to council – November 6th

Prize Orders due – December 18th

WHY SELL?

- Pay for a year of Scouting programs.
- Scouts learn valuable lessons such as earning your own way, salesmanship and teamwork.
- Scouts can earn Amazon Gift cards to buy their own prizes.

QUESTIONS?

Kelly Meacham at kelly.meacham@scouting.org

To download the leader’s guide, app instructions,
door hangers, store front sales letter & more,
visit www.bacbsa.org/popcorn.





Merit Badge Saturday
July 27, 2024 at Camp K
+ Eagle Merit Badges + Citizenship + First
Responder + Handicrafts + Shooting Sports & More!

Merit Badge Saturday at Camp Karankawa

Meet with knowledgeable instructors who will guide Scouts through various Merit Badges including Trail to Eagle badges, shooting Sports, and several electives.

Scouts may work on 1-2 Merit Badges. Camping available with 2-deep leadership.

- Some prerequisites may be required.
- Scouts will receive a blue card at the end of the day.
- Scouts should wear Class A Field Uniform (preferred) or Class B shirt.
- Scouts should bring a sack lunch and a drink.
- Parents may attend and also serve as two-deep leadership.



+ Eagle Merit Badges + Citizenship + First Responder
+ Handicrafts + Shooting Sports & More!

Location Camp Karankawa, 3249 FM 1459, Sweeny, TX 77480

Cost \$25 per Scout. Bring a sack lunch. Parents welcome & encouraged to attend.

Questions? Charlie Tinsley at Charlie.tinsley@scouting.org

Learn More! www.bacbsa.org/scouts-bsa (Click on links at right in blue box.)



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Bobcat in the Park Program & Mobile Scout Shop

Games, puzzles, patches & more!

Saturday, September 28, Coastal & Northern Star, LC United Methodist Church
Saturday, Oct. 5, Cradle of Texas & Thunderbird

Earn Your First Patch. Buy a Scout Uniform.

Welcome to the 14th Annual Bobcat in the Park! New Scouts will complete the Bobcat program. Parents may purchase uniforms from our mobile Scout Shop. Scouts will receive an event patch and completion card upon completion.

- Learn the Scout Salute
- Work on the Scout Law puzzle
- Practice the Scout Oath handwash song
- & more!

COST: \$2, Scouts will receive an event patch.

TIME:

Session 1 – 9 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

Session 2- 10:30 a.m.-Noon

Session 3 – 1-2:30 p.m.

Session 4 – 2:30 – 4 p.m.

Walk-ins open from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

CONTACT: Kelly Meacham at kelly.meacham@scouting.org

For more info, visit www.bacbsa.org/cub-scouts.

(Choose from activities on the right.)



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Ghosts & Goblins at Camp Karankawa October 18-20, 2024

Costume Contest . Crafts . Games . Haunted Fort . Pumpkin
Painting . Shooting Sports . Trick or Treating & more!

Get ready for a Spooktacular time at camp!

For registered Cub Scouts, siblings, and their parents. All registrations must include at least one parent and one registered Cub Scout.

TIME: Check-in starts at 5 p.m. Friday. Check-in by 8:15 a.m. Saturday.
Programs start at 9 a.m. Saturday.

PLACE: Camp Karankawa
3249 FM 1459 Sweeny, TX 77480

COST: \$20 per Cub Scout/parent.
\$8 per sibling. \$5 lunch available on Saturday.



Cub Scouts receive one complimentary patch. Cub Scouts who wish to carve a pumpkin must bring a copy of their Whittling Chip card.

Questions: Camp Director Leah McWhinnie at lkmdtm@gmail.com.

For more information, visit www.bacbsa.org/cub-scouts.
(Choose from activities on the right.)



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®
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Native American Weekend At Camp Karankawa

November 1-3, 2024

Games . Handicrafts . Leatherwork
Pow Wow . Shooting Sports & More!

Where Native American Dancers Invite You to Pow Wow!

- 🌀 Dancing
- 🌀 Drumming
- 🌀 Crafts
- 🌀 Campfires
- 🌀 Trading Post & more!



Costs

Weekend: \$15 youth, \$12 adult, \$5 youth under 5
Saturday only: \$12 youth, \$10 adult, \$5 youth under 5
\$15 per t-shirt. \$20 for 2XL-3XL. (Adults only.)
Saturday Lunch option: \$6

Camp Karankawa

3249 FM 1459 Rd, Sweeny, TX 77480

Contact

Matt Nieten at mjnieten@yahoo.com
Sally Deckard at sally.deckard@lamons.com

Learn more at

www.bacbsa.org/cub-scouts or www.bacbsa.org/scouts-bsa

(Click on Upcoming Events at right. Register by Oct. 13, 2024.)



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FALL CAMP EXPERIENCE

CAMP K NOV. 22-27, 2024

Campfire program . Eagle Merit Badges . Frontier skills . Handicrafts
Movie night & Ice Cream Social . Shooting Sports

Experiences that last a lifetime!

Campfire program
Eagle Merit Badges
Frontier skills
Handicrafts

Movie night & Ice Cream Social
Shooting Sports Program



Cost *(Includes event patch & t-shirt. Special patch for Merit Badge Counselors & staff.)*

\$225 for in-council Scouts. \$250 for out-of-council Scouts.

\$100 for Counselors-in-Training. \$125 for adults.

Complimentary for Staff & Merit Badge Counselors.

Questions?

Jill DeWitt at jilldewitt.scouting@gmail.com

Phillip Galbreath at pgalbreath@gmail.com

Register online today! www.bacbsa.org/Scouts-BSA

(Click on Upcoming Events at right.)



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10 Commandments Hike 2025

The 10 Commandments Hike allows Scouts to visit various churches in Galveston and walk along the way. Along the path you will get to see some of the grand old churches of Galveston Island.

Scout groups with adult supervision will follow a provided map. Groups will visit 15 minutes at each church to hear about the church's history, a commandment, and impact on our community.

COST: \$8, Participants will receive a patch and light snack.

TIME: *Each time slot is limited to 20 people.*

- 9 a.m., hike slot
- 9:30 a.m., hike slot
- 10:00 a.m., hike slot

DISTANCE: Two miles roundtrip.

CONTACT: Charlie Tinsley at charlie.tinsley@scouting.org

REGISTER BY: January 18, 2025

Learn more at www.bacbsa.org/cub-scouts

(Click on links at right.)

Scouting America
Bay Area Council



Are You the Best Patrol? Prove it!

Camp-O-Ree is a weekend campout for troops, crews and ships.

Scouts will compete as groups in various competitions, so get ready to put your Scouting Spirit on display, while also promoting Scout skills, teamwork and the patrol method in your unit.

PATROL WARS

-Cooking Competitions -Campsite Gateway -Patrol Method
-Scout Skills Stations -Shooting Sports Competitions -& more!

COST:

\$20 per Scout, Sea Scout, Venturer
\$10 per adult

QUESTIONS?

Charlie Tinsley at charlie.tinsley@scouting.org



Register online today! www.bacbsa.org/Scouts-BSA

(Click on Upcoming Events at right.)

Scouting America
Bay Area Council



Cub-O-Ree - May 2-4, 2025
Camp Karankawa
Archery, BB Guns, Slingshots, Crafts, Games & more!

Cub-O-Ree

Cub-O-Ree is a weekend camping event for Lions, Tigers, Wolves, Bears, Webelos & Arrow of Light Scouts and their families.

- Archery
- BB Guns
- Slingshots
- Crafts
- Games & More



Cost

\$15 per Cub Scout/Webelos/Sibling (Scouts BSA are siblings at this event.)
\$5 per adult
Complimentary for siblings 4 years & under
Complimentary for adult & youth staff

Questions

Kelly Meacham at kelly.meacham@scouting.org

Learn more at www.baCbsa.org/cub-scouts

(Click on links at right)



ADULT LEADER TRAINING

EVERY SCOUT DESERVES A TRAINED LEADER

GET TRAINED. LEARN MORE.
www.bacbsa.org/training

Be the Best Leader You Can...Get Trained!

WILDERNESS FIRST AID & CPR

This training will help you cope with medical emergencies in the wild. Scouting America requires one leader in each group to have this certification for high adventure camps. Must be at least 14 years of age or older.

COST: \$150 + \$45 for First Aid/CPR

March 22-23, 2025, Camp Karankawa (Register by 3-19-25)

May 17-18, 2025, Camp Karankawa (Register by 5-14-25)

BASIC ADULT OUTDOOR LEADER TRAINING (BALOO) - CUB SCOUTS

BALOO training is required for any Cub Scout outdoor event, including pack camping and overnight campouts.

September 21-22, 2024 (Register by 9-18-24)

February 22-23, 2025 (Register by 2-19-25)

September 20-21, 2025 (Register by 9-17-25)

INTRODUCTION TO OUTDOOR LEADER SKILLS (IOLS)- SCOUTS BSA

IOLS is an adult hands-on training in the outdoors, designed to help you master basic camp skills required for Tenderfoot to First Class.

April 26-27, 2025, Camp Karankawa (Register by 04/23/25)

Nov. 22-23, 2025, Camp Karankawa (Register by 11/19/25)

For more information, or to register, visit www.bacbsa.org/training.