

Group Planning

- how to set the future course for your group-

Some ideas to get your group thinking about next year and beyond



Group Planning

1. Succession planning
2. Financial planning
 - . Major expenditures
3. Attending special events
4. Growth



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Succession Planning

- Start Group Succession Planning for the next Scouting Year in the Spring
- Talk to leaders about their intentions
- Keep tabs on how many Youth are going up at the end of each year so the leadership can be adjusted to meet Leadership-Youth ratios.
- Create a Yearly Succession Plan - use this to plot out the course of the Group over several years.



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Succession Planning

- Recruit leaders in the Spring to allow time for screening to be completed before the next Scouting year starts - PRC, interviews and probation period.
- Encourage Venturers and Rovers to continue as SI T's within group
- Spring Registration - allows for a better estimate on how many youth will return in the fall.



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Financial Planning

- Important components of planning your group finances include:
 - A budget that identifies the financial requirements of your group's major activities, leadership costs and equipment needs- both short term and long term.
 - A clear picture of your present finances through properly prepared statements



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Financial Planning

- Group budgeting cannot take place until sections decide on their major activities for the year.
- Each section's leadership team should prepare a budget as part of their long term plan, declaring their estimates for program activities and camp costs.
- The section budgets should then be approved by the Group Committee and then "rolled up" into one overall group budget.
- Some decisions are then required on the potential sources of funds needed to finance the planned activities.



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Major Expenditures

- Need for accurate inventory, including purchase price, current condition, expected life remaining.
- Wherever possible, purchase equipment that can be used by all sections.
- Need to centralize purchase and management of expenditures with one or two members of the group
- Use of Canadian Tire Money
- Utilize parent contacts to assist you in purchases
- Purchase off season (plan ahead)



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Event Planning

- Sending youth/leaders to major events outside the province is expensive
- Need to plan ahead (more than a year)
- Get the entire group behind the effort
- Start of separate bank accounts (group & individual) and place a % of fundraising away
- All parents of youth attending and the youth themselves must be engaged in planning and fundraising



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Growth

- Use the Group Check Up to examine strengths and areas to be strengthened, such as lack of growth
- Considerations for growth
 - Is meeting space a barrier to growth
 - What are the neighbourhood demographics
 - Do we have the leadership for growth within the existing sections



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Group Planning Calendar

- May
 - Consider early registration
 - Identify potential vacancies
- June
 - Plans for fall registration
 - Review past year activities
- July/August
 - Finalize leadership in each section
 - Sections develop 1 year plan and budget



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Group Planning Calendar

- September
 - Registration
 - Draft Group Budget
 - Finalize financial information for past year
- October
 - Review the list of youth that did not return and determine why



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Group Planning Calendar

- November/December
 - Review registration -
 - Participate in Bring a Buddy
- January – March
 - Plan major expenditures



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For Discussion

- What have been your experiences with planning in your group?
- Why has your group been successful in their plans?
- What do you see as the potential barriers to group planning ?



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Group Planning Resources

- "How are we doing?" document
- Manitoba Council publications:
 - Group Planning Guide
 - Group Treasures Guide
- Service Area Commissioner



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