



COUNCIL INNOVATION COMMITTEE PLAN OF OPERATION 2024-2025 Program Year

(NOTE: As the Innovation Fund was depleted as part of our council's contribution to the Victims' Trust Fund in support of the National BSA Bankruptcy, the committee is in a hiatus and meeting only on an as-needed basis.)

Mission:

The Innovation Committee serves as a catalyst, enabler and incubator for ideas to help Northern Star Council Scouting programs to be responsive and relevant, focused on effective ways of fulfilling the council's mission of positive youth development.

2024-2025 Committee objectives and goals

When resources are available the work of the Innovation Committee takes place on multiple levels, from planning to tracking and coordinating innovative projects underway; to seeking and fostering new projects as well as determining the necessary financial and professional support. The Committee will focus on the following goals:

1. Enrich Scouting by encouraging creation of projects that strengthen current programs as well as respond to youth's changing needs and interests.
2. Enhance the reputation and influence of Scouting and the Northern Star Scouting in the communities we serve, as an innovative organization and strong collaborative partner.
3. Ensure the proper resources are assigned to meet the Council's agenda concerning innovation.
4. Deliver and assess quantifiable outcomes of innovation.

Committee action plan to meet objectives and goals

Best Outcome: Powerful ideas find the support they need.

Worst Outcome: Great ideas are lost or fail for lack of support.

- Develop an overall strategy for innovation:
 - Inventory/monitoring of projects underway
 - Processes for distribution grants and operation of the Innovation Fund.
 - Project selection criteria



Northern Star Scouting

- Project advisory role and oversight
- Determination of results
- Develop tools, support role & limits

- As funds become available, reach out to council committees, districts and Scouting units to encourage innovation and applications for grants.

- Create a strong volunteer committee/support structure to refine, carry out and administer the innovation plan.

- Seek additional resources, both financial as well as professional to support the innovation fund and process as necessary.

- Provide communication and education to operating units of the council on innovation efforts, alignment with long range planning, and coordination of resources.

SUPPORT OF UNITS, VOLUNTEERS AND YOUTH

How will the committee and their actions support units and volunteers:

- Work through existing volunteer structures, Innovation Fund Projects are open to all through selections process.

How will the committee and their actions support youth and adult retention and recruitment:

- Innovation Fund Projects are generated at all program levels and invest in creative ways to support youth and adult retention and recruitment.

Measure of success that demonstrate support of units, volunteers and youth:

- Innovation Fund Projects may provide an opportunity to explore new ways to support units volunteers and youth.

Other Council Committees we need to work with to accomplish the above:

- Partnership with other Council Committee's depends on the nature of the approved project.



COMMITTEE FUNCTIONS

Annual activities/events of this committee:

- None - support existing Council and District events

Intermittent/new activities: (Assign committee members and research tasks)

- None - support existing Council and District events

Event, committee meeting, and sub-committee meetings needed:

- The committee is in a hiatus and meeting only on an as-needed basis. If funds become available, we would resume quarterly meetings prior to Council Board Meetings, with subcommittees and project teams meeting as needed.

COMMITTEE'S COMMUNICATION PLAN TO SUPPORT UNITS, VOLNTEERS AND YOUTH

Objectives

- When funds become available provide communication and education to operating units of the council on innovation efforts and opportunities.

Communications volunteer(s) - who helps with the communication plan:

- Promotion is on hiatus until funds can be generated.

Social media/print/mailings/etc. plan – how will we get information to units and members:

- Promotion is on hiatus until funds can be generated.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair: Kevin Kuhn

Members: Nancy Dana, Paul Taylor, Wes Laseski, Dana Lonn, Amy Eggert, Pat McGuine, Ray Skowyra

Staff Advisor: Jenny Heddal, Director of Development



Council Committee Responsibilities:

Actively seek projects for the innovation fund, assess impact and select the projects to be funded. Follow up and report to the Board of Directors on progress, assisting in implementation where necessary. Give advisory leadership to the holistic list of innovative projects underway that are not funded by the Innovation Fund, to ensure alignment across committees. Identify research, education, and other professionals to objectively measure results. Network and seek additional funding. Communicate actively with other council committees and operating units to track innovation.

Council Committee Make Up and Leadership

Members are professionals in education, business, research, communications and related fields who provide direction, planning, counsel, and assistance with specific innovation projects and priorities. The committee consists of standing members as well as advisory members. Ad hoc committee members are also involved regarding specific projects.

Council Innovation Chair

Serves on the Council Executive Board and chairs the Innovation Committee. Serves as an active voice for innovation at the council's highest volunteer level.

Vice Chairs:

Hold responsibilities as assigned by the committee chair for individual committee functions. Substitutes for the chair when necessary.

Members-at-Large:

Serve as a resource to provide direction and professional expertise to Northern Star Council in targeted areas such as:

- Research
- Curriculum development
- Youth development
- Funding
- Grant making/grant seeking
- Representing other council operating unit interests

CRITERIA FOR COMMITTEE CHAIR SELECTION:

- Commitment to Scouting's mission and methods
- Personal interest in strengthening the council's innovation efforts
- Knowledge of Scouting's programs
- Interest in youth development in the larger community
- Has the respect of the board and community
- Expertise in finding funding and program partners
- Creative and evaluative mindset
- Entrepreneurial spirit
- Skilled at leading a meeting to find consensus in a diverse group



CALENDAR DATES
Printed in the Council Calendar

No Committee Meetings or Activities are printed in the calendar.

SUGGESTED 2024-2025 PROGRAM-YEAR
COUNCIL STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

In support of the Five Priority Areas

- In coordination with Development and the Make Your Mark Endowment committee provide donors with opportunities to invest in innovation.