



## **COUNCIL CAMPING COMMITTEE PLAN OF OPERATION 2025-2026 Program Year**

### Mission:

The mission of the Camping Committee is to provide and promote year-round camping and program opportunities for both Scouting members and the greater community.

### 2025-2026 Committee objectives and goals

- Coordinate with the Activities, Advancement and Training Committees as well as the OA Lodge to identify an endorsed program calendar for all units.
- Meet benchmarks for registrations and attendance as established during the annual budget process.
- Establish a comprehensive communication plan to promote all opportunities.
- Facilitate camp-led programming at metro camps to supplement weekend camping opportunities and increase facility usage.
- Increase rentals of facilities by families.
- Implement an updated fee structure for weekend camping operations.
- Fill all vacant subcommittee chair vacancies.
- Establish a comprehensive site plan for FCA capital improvements.
- Pilot an ELC curriculum with at least 1 partner school.
- Enact a consistent refund, cancelation and rescheduling policy.
- Increase opportunities to gather feedback from camp users during committee meetings.
- Fully integrate Duluth camp operations.

### Committee action plan to meet objectives and goals

- Schedule a coordinated planning/calendaring meeting with relevant committees and OA by 11/30/25.
- Contact all Scouts BSA units that have attended MP or TSC in the past 3 years.
- Collect current promotional efforts for fall, winter, summer and year round camps by 2/1/25. Condense into a single document by 2/10/25. Present findings at February 2025 meeting. Share with Communication Committee and gather feedback by 4/1/25.
- Publish a Special Events Calendar by 4/1/25.
- By 3/31/25, outline a plan with 3 promotional efforts targeted toward families. Enact by 12/31/25.
- Establish a task force to review the current weekend camping fee model, comparisons to other operations and establish a proposal for changes to be reviewed at December 2025 meeting.
- Hold a prospecting session for subcommittee chairs by 3/1/25.



## Northern Star Scouting

- Through Community Programs Committee, identify partner school for the ELC program and host event by 5/30/25. Review findings by 9/25/25.
- Establish an FCA task force to guide development of improvement plan. Provide regular reports to the committee.
- Establish a Duluth task force to identify and guide the integration timeline to address camp operations, promotions and volunteer / committee support.
- Gather feedback from participants utilizing refund policy. Assemble data and present to camping committee for review by 12/31/25.
- Camp Directors submit list of prospects for camping feedback task force by 8/15/25.
- Gather feedback on new committee structure implemented in the fall of 2024.
- Identify next level of challenge programming for Venture Crews.

## **SUPPORT OF UNITS, VOLUNTEERS AND YOUTH**

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

- Providing opportunities for outings, campouts and activities with the goal of retaining and attracting youth participants.
- Reviewing user issues and concerns with the camping program.
- Discussing feedback gathered on camp operations and approving action plans for operations and improvements.

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

- Quality program will provide a cornerstone experience that will retain and attract participants.

What are the committee's plans to increase diversity of the committee members:

- Camp Directors will prospect for the Camping Feedback Task Force with an emphasis on identifying additional candidates who are (a) women and (b) people of color.

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

- Attendance/registration metrics
- Satisfaction scores and anecdotal feedback gathered from camper surveys
- Retention of units and individuals participant in camp operations
- Fiscally sound budgets

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

- Activities
- Advancement



## Northern Star Scouting

- Training
- Properties
- OA
- Communications
- Community Programs
- Camping Sub Committees
  - Aquatics
  - Campmaster
  - Conservation
  - COPE & Climbing
  - Range & Target Sports

## **COMMITTEE FUNCTIONS**

See appendix for a condensed version of the organization of the Camping & Programs Committee.

Annual activities/events of this committee:

- Review, advise and endorse annual operational plans for Camp Northern Star programs.
- Review, advise and endorse promotional and registration benchmarks for Camp Northern Star Programs.
- Review, advise and endorse budgets and fees for Camp Northern Star programs.
- Review, advise and endorse key policies and practices, as needed, for Camp Northern Star programs.
- Ensure key safety and quality standards are met for Camp Northern Star programs.
- Coordinate cross-functional efforts of related committees and sub committees to ensure annual goals are met.
- Establish task forces and work groups, as necessary to achieve annual goals.

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

- NCAP
- Weekend Camping Fees
- Promotional & Marketing Efforts
- Program Task Forces
- Camping Feedback Task Force

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

- Monthly business meeting – 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month
- Annual program calendar meeting - January



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- Annual full meeting with all subcommittees present
- Subcommittees meet as needed, usually quarterly

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

Objectives

- Promote camping opportunities to all youth and families
- Collect current promotional efforts for fall, winter, summer and year round camps by 2/1/25. Condense into a single document by 2/10/25. Present findings at February 2025 meeting. Share with Communication Committee and gather feedback by 4/1/25.

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

- Seasonal Camp Staff
- Program Task Forces
- Camping Feedback Task Force

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

- Monthly Navigator
- Monthly (or more) emails to unit leadership and families. Monthly subjects are dictated by the program cycle.
- Council Facebook site

## **COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Chair: Chuck Gitzen

Vice Chair(s): Vacant

Members: See committee roster

Sub-Committee Members: See committee roster

Staff Advisor: Travis Suttan

Draft Position Descriptions:

**Committee Member:** See position description

**Committee Chair:** See position description

## **CALENDAR DATES**

**Printed in the Council Calendar**

See spreadsheet of dates submitted to Council Communications team.



## Appendix: Camping and Programs Committee

**Mission:** The mission of the Camping and Programs Committee is to promote and provide mission-based, year-round and NSC site-focused opportunities for BSA Scouting members and Community Scouting participants.

**Camping and Program Committee Functions:**

- Review, advise and endorse annual operational plans for Camp Northern Star programs.
- Review, advise and endorse promotional and registration benchmarks for Camp Northern Star Programs.
- Review, advise and endorse budgets and fees for Camp Northern Star programs.
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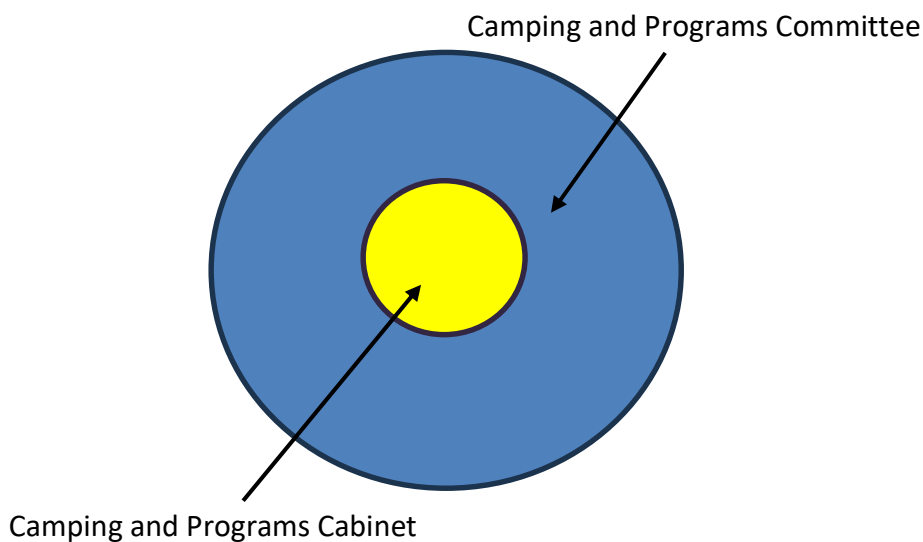
### Organization

#### Camping and Programs Cabinet

- Chair
- Vice Chair
- VP of Camping and Properties
- 3+ Members at Large
- Properties Vice Chair

#### Camping and Programs Committee

- Camping and Programs Cabinet
- 3+ SBSA representatives
- 3+ Cub representatives
- Subcommittee Chairs
- Task force members
- Camp Feedback Task Force



\*Both groups sit on the same committee but member expectations for meeting attendance varies.

### Meeting Frequency

Cabinet will meet 6 times annually (October, December, January, March, April, May) plus 3 times with the whole committee for a total 9 times.

- Benchmark review
- Status updates
  - Related committees
  - Work groups & initiatives
- Decisions and approvals, as necessary

Full Committee will meet 3 times annually – September, November & February

- Consent agenda approval – review of interim decisions
- Study sessions on focus topics requiring input from many stakeholders (e.g. fees, programs, calendar)



## Northern Star Scouting

- Votes on substantial policies, changes, etc.

### Annual Topics

#### September\*

- Summer Camp Review
  - Feedback on program, facilities, staffing = focus areas for coming year
  - Resource help
- Program year offerings – are we doing the right thing?
- Where do we need to put our efforts?

#### October

- Budget Prep
- Related Committee goals and needs for coming year

#### November\*

- Summer Fees
- Promotion Tactics
- Community Programs

#### December

- Annual Camp Improvement Plans
- Weekend camp operations

#### January

- Calendar
- Plan of Operation
- Properties

#### February\*

- Winter Camp Review
- Weekend Camp Operations

#### March

- Related Committee goals update
- Member prospecting

#### April

- Winter & Fall Camp Annual Improvement Plans
- NCAP

#### May

- Winter and Fall Fees
- Summer Readiness