

Winchester Virginia Stake Guidelines for Funding Scout Activities

Objective: The funding of activities outside the normal range of the Scouting Budget has been an area of discussion and confusion for some time. The primary focus of this guideline is to explain the funding sources and priorities for scouting activities in the Winchester Virginia Stake; including one extended annual camp or similar activity, such as varsity or venturing high adventure outings.

Funding for activities such as scout camp, super activities and varsity or venturing annual summer activities.

1. The General Handbook of instructions directs that scouting activities and awards for young men ages 8 through 17 are to be funded from the budget allowance. We do not collect dues or assess fees for participation in scouting activities. Participation in the scouting program is participation in a Church activity and must be available to all members at no additional cost. One exception is a single annual extended camp or similar activity.
2. When ward funds are insufficient, the next source of funding for an annual camp should be the young man or his family. If a young man desires to participate encourage him to earn the money for the activity himself through lawn care, working odd jobs, etc. This will foster a sense of responsibility and accountability in the young man as well as teaching him to save and work towards a specific goal.
3. The third source of funds would be from the family of the young man. It would be the responsibility of the young man to approach his parents and discuss budget, savings, and other issues concerning the family.
4. When ward, individual, and family funds are insufficient or when special equipment is needed, fund-raisers can be considered. The bishopric, young men presidency, and scout leaders will then discuss appropriate fund-raising activities. The fund-raising activities should have specific goals as to how much money is needed and who will benefit from the activity. The number of such activities must be kept to a minimum and occupy the fewest number of days possible to accomplish the identified goals. All fund-raising activities will be subject to approval by the Bishop, Troop Committee, and the BSA Council. If a fund-raising activity is held, it should provide a meaningful value or service. It should be a positive experience that builds unity. Contributions to fund-raising activities are voluntary and members should not feel obligated to contribute. Units should not advertise or solicit beyond their boundaries (within the stake) , nor should they sell products or services door-to-door.

Examples of fund-raising activities that are not approved include:

1. Activities that would be taxable.
2. Activities completed with paid labor, either by employees or by contract.
3. Entertainment for which the stake or ward pays an orchestra, entertainers, or others for their services; when admission is charged; and when the intent of the activity is to raise funds.
4. The sale of commercial goods or services, including food storage items, popcorn, candy or products that involve contracts with commercial vendors.
5. Games of chance, such as raffles and bingo.

Recommendations:

1. Plan activities that are not cost prohibitive for all involved.
2. Work together as a unit to ensure that funds are available for all scouts.
3. Set long term and short term activity schedules well in advance so scouts are aware of upcoming costs and can plan and set goals to earn the money required.

We believe that understanding these principles will have the following results:

1. The size of the scouting unit will not be an issue for the types of activities in the program. In the past, larger units have been able to draw upon greater amounts of money in the ward budget. The new guidelines will give parity to all units .
2. The young men of the stake will learn budgeting, saving and working towards a specific goal, rather than having their scouting activities paid for from other sources.
3. Fundraising activities will be seen as a "last resort" to raise money for a specific activity, instead of an annual event to raise money for a non-specific activity.
4. There will be an increased focus on activities and the associated costs, purpose and planning.

We wish to strongly emphasize that no one is to be excluded from activities because of finances.

Guidelines developed February 2001.