

SCOUTS-L

**PAYING FOR
SUMMER CAMP**

Date: Fri, 14 Mar 1997 20:00:00 +0000
From: Bob Taschler <bob_taschler@PUBLICITAS-USA.COM>
Subject: Re: Summer Camp and \$\$\$

Scott,

I believe that a Scout pays his own way and carries his own weight. Handouts are for those who have been convinced by others that they are beyond helping themselves. This is an excellent opportunity to teach people how to help themselves.

That being said, I will offer you several suggestions that have worked for others.

Scout uniforms and equipment can be had for little or no money if you organize a used uniform committee. Simply send letters to troops in wealthier towns or counties stating your specific needs and your desire to purchase their used uniforms and equipment. Let them know what your troop or pack can afford to pay even if it is only \$1 for a shirt or a pair of pants. This goes for tents, cookware, stoves, etc. Emphasize that you are not looking for a handout, but just can't see your way to paying for brand new! Follow up the letters with phone calls from your committee members to the leaders in those troops or packs. You'd be surprised by the response if you make your request in earnest.

Raising the dollars to pay for the used uniforms and equipment is another matter. There are really only two good Scout methods: sell goods or services. I personally do not like the -athons as the "customer" receives nothing, and the Scout produces nothing, of true value.

I don't know where you live but in my town there are cars to be washed, lawns to be mowed, leaves to be raked, snow to be shoveled, brush to be cleared, wood to be chopped, newspapers or aluminum to be recycled, fences to be painted, parking lots to be striped, etc., etc., etc.. But you have to teach the Scouts how to ask for the job. Nobody will ever come knocking on their door offering them work. Even baby-sitting is an option. An older, responsible Scout with First Aid

and Emergency Preparedness Merit Badges would make an excellent child care candidate.

The older Scouts can benefit from a letter of recommendation from you when they seek after school jobs. Does your town have a library? Do they need some boys to put books back on the shelves? Talk to the mayor or town administrator and ask them for information on tasks that the boys could do. Once they know that the adult leadership will make sure the boys are responsible, they will find things for you to do.

Our troop collects and recycles newspapers for the entire town every other month. The town pays us far less than they would with a recycling company, the troop earns money to pay for our supplies, and the boys learn the value of hard work. For us, it is a win-win-win situation.

If your leaders have any expertise, use it. We have a commercial chef in our troop who has organized several catered dinners for other organizations in town. They get a good deal price wise while we raise money and get great exposure. My mother was a GSA leader and she had a flair for the dramatic. One year she organized a spring fashion show of clothes which the girls made themselves. It was well promoted and very well attended. The next year, she put on a variety show for the 50th Anniversary of the GSA. They called it the Great 50 and highlighted each of the fifty states in song and dance with sets and costumes. It sold out in presale and it ran for two nights. Great fun too.

There are dozens if not hundreds of companies who will set you up with selling programs. Set up a couple of cute little Cubs Scouts with a box of candy and proper signs at the entrance to a shopping mall or a post office on a busy Saturday and the candy sells itself. Christmas wreaths and trees can be presold and once you have a following of customers, you can set up a corner lot in a church or school. Sell Dutch bulbs with or without planting services. Live in an area where there is a lot of graffiti? Learn how to clean and repaint.

The key to any project of this nature is a clear vision, a simple project plan, and dedicated workers. You never know what you can do

until you try. Good Luck.

**Bob Taschler
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