



September 19, 2019

As fall begins and school has opened, I'm confident that your Troop is providing a quality Scouting program to youth in your community. We continue to bring Scouting to more families here in the Crossroads of America Council, and the impact we have on a daily basis can be felt across central Indiana. Advancement opportunities, exciting weekend camping trips, and a quality summer camp experience keep youth involved, engaged, and motivated to continue to benefit from all Scouting has to offer.

If you're not aware, these programs also help our Council to qualify for a very generous challenge grant on an annual basis, the "Lange Challenge". This multi-year program honors the memory of Alexander 'Skip' Lange and his belief that an active Scout is likely to stay in Scouting and earn their Eagle Scout award. In order to again qualify for the grant, we need your help.

- 1) Please fill out the form attached to this letter, reflecting the camping experiences you have conducted this year, as well as those your PLC anticipates conducting between now and December 31<sup>st</sup>. In order to qualify for this grant, we need to identify that at least 65% of our Troops are participating in 8 or more short term weekend experiences throughout the course of the year. These forms can be scanned and emailed to [camping@crossroadsbsa.org](mailto:camping@crossroadsbsa.org), or just simply write a brief email with the same information.
- 2) On the attached page, you will see a list of youth who-according to our records- have not received a rank advancement in 2019 as of the end of August. We know that our records aren't always accurate, as Scouts are always advancing. Would you please review this page and submit any changes to [advancement@crossroadsbsa.org](mailto:advancement@crossroadsbsa.org). Please continue to submit advancements as normal, but if you see an error, let us know by October 30<sup>th</sup> so that we can ensure our records are updated before year-end.
- 3) Both camping and advancement are leading indicators of a Troop's success, as outlined in the Journey to Excellence. We have also included the Journey to Excellence Troop Scorecard for 2019 in this mailing. Please take time to review with your committee and PLC to ensure that the other important indicators are reflected in your troop calendar. Remember, please turn in a copy of this Scorecard with your recharter paperwork.

Thank you so much for your dedication to Scouting, and your partnership in helping us once again achieve the "Lange Challenge". Funds secured through this program are directly reinvested to benefit Scouts and families in the Crossroads of America Council.

Best Regards,

Joseph E. Wiltrout  
Scout Executive/CEO  
Crossroads of America Council

**2019 CROSSROADS OF AMERICA TROOP WEEKEND (SHORT TERM) CAMPING LOG**

Scout Leader and PLC,

Please log all overnight weekend trips (not summer camp) to date, along with those planned for the remainder of 2019.

Thank you!

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District: \_\_\_\_\_ Troop: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Submitting Form: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**2019 Trips Completed**

	<u>Location</u>	<u># of Nights of Camping</u>
January:	_____	_____
February:	_____	_____
March:	_____	_____
April:	_____	_____
May:	_____	_____
June:	_____	_____
July:	_____	_____
August:	_____	_____
September:	_____	_____

**2019 Anticipated Trips (If no location, please list dates instead)**

	<u>Location</u>	<u># of Nights of Camping</u>
October:	_____	_____
November:	_____	_____
December:	_____	_____

\*To submit please take a picture or scan, and email to [camping@crossroadsbsa.org](mailto:camping@crossroadsbsa.org) by 10/15/2019\*

**Troop \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ District**  
**2019 Scouting's Journey to Excellence**  
**"The BSA method for annual planning and continuous improvement"**

Item	Objective	Bronze Level	Silver Level	Gold Level	Bronze Points	Silver Points	Gold Points
<b>Planning and Budget</b>					<b>Total Points: 200</b>		
#1	<b>Planning and budget:</b> Have a program plan and budget that is regularly reviewed by the committee, and it follows BSA policies related to fundraising.	Have an annual program plan and budget adopted by the troop committee.	Achieve Bronze, plus troop conducts a planning meeting involving youth leaders for the following program year.	Achieve Silver, plus troop committee meets at least six times during the year to review program plans and finances.	50	100	200
<b>Membership</b>					<b>Total Points: 500</b>		
#2	<b>Building Scouting:</b> Recruit new youth into the troop in order to grow membership.	Have a membership growth plan that includes a recruitment activity and register new members in the troop.	Achieve Bronze, and either increase youth members by 5% or have at least 25 members.	Achieve Silver, and either increase youth members by 10% or have at least 35 members.	50	100	200
#3	<b>Retention:</b> Retain a significant percentage of youth members.	Reregister 75% of eligible members.	Reregister 80% of eligible members.	Reregister 85% of eligible members.	50	100	200
#4	<b>Webelos-to-Scout transition:</b> Have an effective plan to recruit Webelos Scouts into the troop.	With a pack or Webelos den, hold two joint activities.	Achieve Bronze, plus recruit two Webelos Scouts.	Achieve Bronze, plus provide at least one den chief to a pack and recruit five Webelos Scouts.	25	50	100
<b>Program</b>					<b>Total Points: 900</b>		
#5	<b>Advancement:</b> Achieve a high percentage of Scouts earning rank advancements.	40% of Scouts advance one rank during the year.	50% of Scouts advance one rank during the year.	60% of Scouts advance one rank during the year.	50	100	200
#6	<b>Short-term camping:</b> Conduct short-term or weekend campouts throughout the year.	Conduct four short-term overnight campouts.	Conduct seven short-term overnight campouts.	Conduct nine short-term overnight campouts.	50	100	200
#7	<b>Long-term camping:</b> Participate in a long-term camp with a majority of the troop in attendance.	The troop participates in a long-term camp.	60% of Scouts attend a long-term camp.	70% of Scouts attend a long-term camp.	50	100	200
#8	<b>Service projects:</b> Participate in service projects, with at least one benefiting the chartered organization.	Participate in three service projects and enter the hours on the JTE website.	Participate in four service projects and enter the hours on the JTE website.	Participate in five service projects and enter the hours on the JTE website.	25	50	100
#9	<b>Patrol method:</b> Use the patrol method to develop youth leaders.	The troop has patrols, and each has a patrol leader. There is an SPL, if more than one patrol. The PLC meets at least four times a year.	Achieve Bronze, plus PLC meets at least six times. The troop conducts patrol leader training.	Achieve Silver, plus PLC meets at least ten times. At least one Scout has attended an advanced training course, such as NYLT or Order of the Arrow Conference.	50	100	200
<b>Volunteer Leadership</b>					<b>Total Points: 400</b>		
#10	<b>Leadership and family engagement:</b> The troop is proactive in recruiting sufficient leaders and communicates regularly with parents.	Have at least one registered assistant Scoutmaster.	Achieve Bronze, plus the troop holds two courts of honor, where troop plans are reviewed with parents.	Achieve Bronze, plus the troop holds three courts of honor, where troop plans are reviewed with parents.	50	100	200
#11	<b>Trained leadership:</b> Have trained and engaged leaders at all levels. All leaders are required to have youth protection training.	Scoutmaster or an assistant Scoutmaster has completed position-specific training.	Achieve Bronze, plus the Scoutmaster and 60% of assistants have completed position-specific training or, if new, will complete within three months of joining.	Achieve Silver, plus two-thirds of active committee members have completed position-specific training and at least one person has attended an advanced training course involving a total of at least 5 days.	50	100	200

**Bronze:** Earn at least 525 points by earning points in at least 7 objectives.

**Total points earned:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Silver:** Earn at least 750 points by earning points in at least 8 objectives.

**Gold:** Earn at least 1,000 points by earning points in at least 8 objective and at least Bronze in #6 or #7.

**No. of objectives with points:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Our troop has completed online rechartering by the deadline in order to maintain continuity of our program.*

*We certify that these requirements have been completed:*

Scoutmaster \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Committee chair \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*This form should be submitted to the Scout service center or your unit commissioner, as directed by your council.*