

HOW TO PLAN A TROOP OR CAMP REUNION



Across the country, many troops and camps are nearing major anniversaries. By planning ahead, you can recognize 25, 50, or 100 years of history with an event that will promote Scouting in your community, allow Scouting alumni to reconnect, and maybe even raise some money for your troop or camp.

STEP 1: PLANNING THE REUNION

Remember that lots of different groups can have reunions: alumni from council camps, Wood Badge troops, Sea Scout ships, Exploring posts, Alpha Phi Omega chapters, your Order of the Arrow lodge, your troop, your patrol and more.



Decide what you want to do, pick a location and set a date on the calendar. Think about what your purpose is.



Reach out to a few people you just know will come to help get the momentum going.



Take your event as an opportunity to build a community on Facebook (it's free), and crowdsource the fun task of hunting down your old Scouting friends. Find people through word of mouth, LinkedIn and directories like the alumni directory at scoutingalumni.org. Your council professional staff might be able to help.



Post historic photos to build excitement.

Be inclusive. Encourage alumni to bring the family, and remember that a Scout's parents are alumni, too. Being inclusive also means making sure the people you want to come aren't priced out of your event.



Present awards to dedicated and honored alumni. If you plan to give an award that requires paperwork or approvals, give yourself plenty of time to get everything in order.



Promote your event. Local media outlets love reunion stories – especially when they come with good photos. And once a story is online, use it to promote your event even more.

STEP 2: AT THE REUNION

You don't have to prepare a seven-course meal. General rule: the simpler, the better.



Get in the spirit. Maybe wear your old neckerchief, and bring enough for anyone who forgot theirs.



Break out some mementos and photos, and post pictures of them on your alumni Facebook page.



Re-create old group photographs



STEP 3: AFTER THE REUNION

Be sure to take a high-quality group photo – and include something to “anchor” your photo, such as a landmark, sign, totem, or unit flag.



Limit long speeches; provide plenty of opportunities for people to talk to one another.



Express gratitude to all who helped and all who came.



Follow up. Add newcomers to your email list and social media. Post and tag photos. Make everyone who wasn't there want to join you next time.

Start planning your next gathering!