

## **MCS 316 – Troop Scenario 2**

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### **THE UNIT ASSESSMENT**

#### **TROOP SCENARIO II**

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#### **BACKGROUND**

Troop 982 was founded in 1958 and has been one of the more active units in the district with significant parental help and good leaders. For the last 30 years the unit has had the same Scoutmaster while the rest of the committee has turned over. The unit has had some troubles with the charter organization (a small Methodist church with an aging membership) but those issues have been resolved for the moment. The unit meets in the church's gathering space during the school year, but meets in the parking lot during the summer months.

#### **PLANNING AND BUDGET**

Program planning is done by the patrol leader's council, but the boys often cannot think up something to do. At this point the scoutmaster will tell them what he thinks they should do and the boys agree. The boys complain they do the same thing each month but have not provided any suggestions for activities. The troop has both a checking and savings account which is funded through an annual membership fee and two fundraising events run by the troop. The troop also participates in the council popcorn sales with the profits from the popcorn sales going into an account to assist with camp fees. The troop treasurer maintains the checkbook and savings accounts and reports the current expenditures and balance at the troop committee each month. Most checks are written at the committee meeting and checks are written only if a receipt is provided. All major expenditures must be approved by the committee. The unit maintains a balance of \$20,000 in its savings account which has increased slowly over the years.

#### **MEMBERSHIP**

Over the years the unit has been as large as 60 boys and as low as 15. Currently there are 25 boys, with 17 of them between the ages of 12 and 14. The older boys range from 15 to 17 and most older boys do not attend unit meetings often. The younger boys usually attend. At this point, the Scoutmaster has no interest in increasing the unit size and the troop does not actively recruit from Cub Scout packs. The overall troop membership has been declining for the last 10 years and it appears that it will again be smaller when the unit re-charters. The number of Cub Scouts in the packs near the troop has been decreasing over the years and now is about half what it was 15 years ago.

Most youth advance through the rank of first class in three years. In the past many boys have made Life Scout and the unit boasts a record of over 100 Eagle Scouts in the last 30 years. The unit loses about half the Cub Scout recruits that sign up each spring by the end of fall.

There are two other troops nearby which were smaller but have increased to 15 – 20 boys through active recruiting of Cub Scouts from the packs.

## PROGRAM

The troop plans one weekend outing a quarter. Each summer, the unit attends a week-long resident camp at two different camps. The Scoutmaster rarely attends summer camp, but the unit is led by one of the parents for the week. Most years the troop sends a crew on a high adventure trip, to Philmont, Sea Base or the Northern Tier, but a year gap between trips has been occurring more frequently. Trips to high adventure bases are instigated and planned by one parent from the unit.

Typically, 10 to 15 boys attend troop meetings. Troop meetings are held every other week and patrol meetings are supposed to occur the weeks the troop does not meet. Often the patrols do not meet. The unit is divided into two patrols which act as a single patrol, since only 8-14 boys attend any camping trip. Two service projects are completed each year, Scouting for Food and picking up garbage along road sides in the spring.

The troop usually does not participate in district events.

## VOUNTEER LEADERSHIP

The Scoutmaster has been in place for 30 years and is currently 72 years old and in fair health. He sold his business and has retired. He continues to be present at troop meetings, perform Scoutmaster conferences and attend the patrol leader's council. He has given no indication that he plans to leave his position and there is no succession plan.

Most camping activities are led by parents. Frequently, but not always, one is registered as an assistant Scoutmaster or committee member. There are two assistant Scoutmasters, but only one is trained. The committee has not been trained in the last 20 years. The unit insists that any adult that is a leader on an outing has Youth Protection training.

Parents volunteering to lead activities has been decreasing and some events have had to be canceled due to a lack of adult leadership.

## TASK

Assess Troop 982:

- ☐ Rate the unit on a scale of 1 – 5 (Red/Yellow/Green)
- ☐ Identify the unit's key strengths and needs in planning and budget, membership, program, and volunteer leadership.
- ☐ Identify any issues the unit has and if any are critical to the unit's success.
- ☐ Prepare a unit service plan to address the unit's needs and issues.