

GAP 100
Activity Support

GAP 100 Reference #

112

What

Opening A New Section

Why:

- One way to ensure the longevity and vitality of any organization is through growth. As members of Scouting it is our mandate to promote and strive towards growth of our membership.
- A few methods in promoting easy growth is to either:
 - Start a new section within your group to accommodate your youth moving up from one section to another.
 - Or splitting an existing section that has become too large and unmanageable into an "A" and "B" section.

What do I Need

- Approval of your Sponsor/Partner and Group Committee.
- Recruit & screen potential leadership.
- Run a campaign to bring in more youth.

Who Do I Need

- Growth is something that everyone should be involved with but the project needs to be stimulated by a person who has both the enthusiasm and interest. Consider finding a "Growth Ambassador", a "Spark Plug" of sorts who has the enthusiasm to mobilize your group committee and recruit leadership for your new leadership.
- Contact your Area Commissioner or Council Field Executive (CFE)/Community Development Worker (CDW) for resources in getting the new section started.

Preparation

- The first and most important step is to meet with your Sponsor/Partner to discuss adding a new section(s) and the availability of space in the facility you are currently using. If the facility you are using has no room to expand contact your Council Field Executive (CFE) for other options.
- Survey your current leadership team, often parents like to move on with their children and will consider taking on leadership roles within the section they are moving into.
- Make plans for recruiting youth by ie: setting up a "Fun Night" with activities for the youth, refer to "Recipe Card – Setting up a Fun Night".

How do I do it

- Survey registered members (youth/adults) to determine who is moving up to the new section.
- If you are fortunate enough to have parents ready to take on leadership roles in your newly formed section start the screening process ASAP. Consider providing Leader Handbooks and necessary resources to get your leaders started.
- Ensure that they are willing to take the necessary training as soon as it is available. Until then approach your Area Commissioner to bring in a coach for a few weeks to get everyone started.
- Depending on the experience of your leadership team start "Program Planning" ASAP.
- Check out your local Scout Shop for "Jump-Start Programs".

Follow-up:

- Follow up with registrar to ensure all leadership is registered on the "Membership Management System" (MMS) as active members.
- Set up a registration night to take place shortly after the "Fun Night". This gives those parents who were indecisive time to think about it.
- Phone the parents you haven't heard from to inquire if they are still interested.



The first six weeks of a Beaver Program is available in the Beaver Leader Handbook.