



# First Class in First Year

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# A Little History of FCFY

- Pre-1989, Ranks had a Time Deadline
- FCFY based on Statistics
- Statistics can be misleading
- Couple of Competing Schools of Thought
  - FCFY is “correct and proper” per National
  - Is based on Statistics and no real effective purpose
- Both are Flawed





# Flaws

- Timeline based plan ignores the Scout
- Could be retention or bottom line driven
- Might be 15, 18 or 24 months vs. 12 depending on the Scout

But there are some good points





# FCFY Benefits – Does it Matter?

- Healthy Troop Indicator
  - Regular Camping
  - Providing Opportunities to learn
  - Delivering on Aims and Methods
  - Promises being delivered
- Scout is Active





# Misconceptions

- Not the only indicator
- If scouts not attaining FCFY
  - Scout “ought to” reach goal
  - Troop doing it wrong
  - Sense of Urgency for subsequent ranks, Merit Badges or Eagle well before age 18





# Going Forward

- Should troop promote FCFY?
  - Yes
- Should Scouts aspire to FCFY?
  - Yes
- Do troops need a plan as a guide?
  - Yes
- Need a specific time driven plan “just because”?
  - No, or at least maybe not





# Going Forward - Continued

- Do Things that make advancement likely
  - Better PLC's
  - Better Troop Guides, Instructors, New Scout Patrols, etc.
  - Provide opportunities
  - Scouts are having fun (don't underestimate)
  - Engaged in process of running troop (Youth Led)





# Going forward – Cont.

- Do's (Continued)
  - Camping monthly
  - Older Boys mentoring, teaching and leading
    - The Patrol Method
    - Benefits both groups
  - Regular Rewards and Recognition
  - Strong Program (Year Round, Every Year)







# Bottom Line

- Scouts advance who are:
  - Committed
  - Involved
  - Engaged
- Natural result of the health of the program
- Those who aren't probably won't

