

Putting Fun Into High Adventure Funding

By Diane Yale-Peabody

Illustration by Joe Snyder

SCOUT JIM ROTH ZIGZAGGED a funnel over a pot of hot cooking oil, dispensing a stream of creamy batter into the sizzling liquid. Glancing at the long line of customers waiting outside Troop 427's funnel cake booth, he hurriedly swirled more batter into additional pots of oil.

Jim's brother Mike used long-handled tongs to flip each funnel cake as it turned golden brown in the bubbling oil. A minute later the Scout chefs drained the crisp cakes, sprinkled them with powdered sugar, and passed them out to a hungry customer.

trip to Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico.

The funnel cake project was one segment of an innovative savings plan set up by the troop committee. For years troop leaders had dreamed of a Philmont high-adventure trek. But they calculated the cost at about \$750 per boy, out of reach for most troop families.

To ease the cost for each Scout they created a high-adventure fund, separate from the regular troop account. Proceeds

committee went into high gear setting up the money-earners.

The troop concentrated on two kinds of projects:

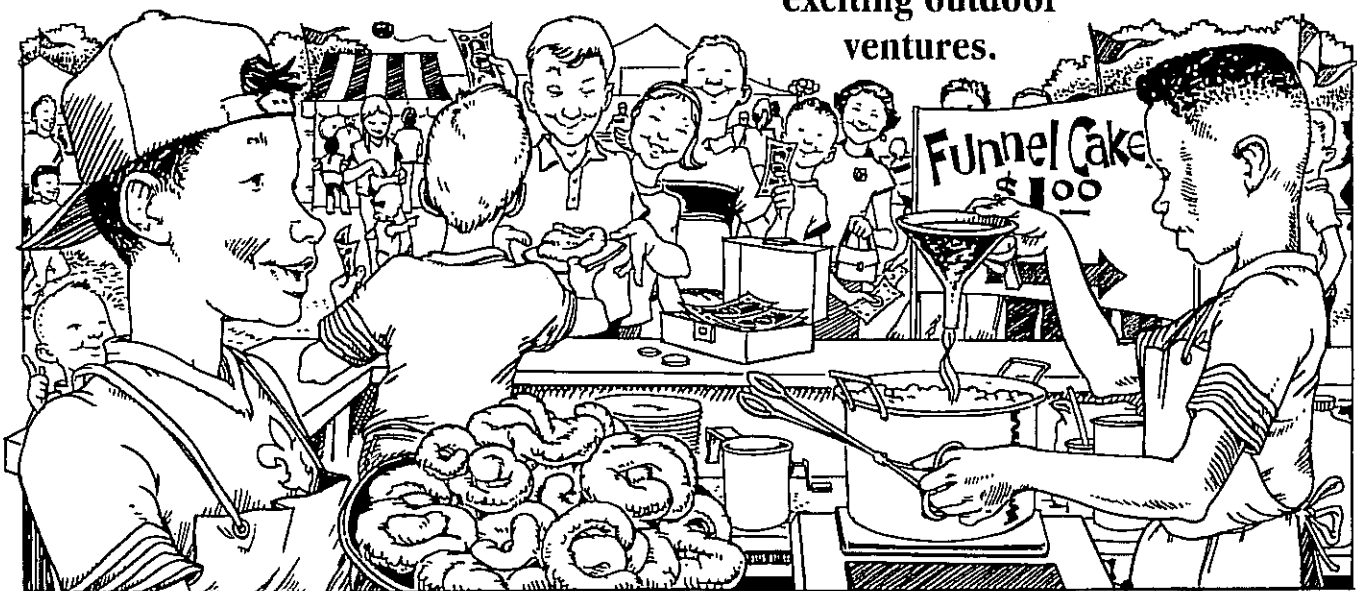
- The first was a door-to-door sale, making sure to select a product that could return at least 50 percent profit. Candy bars met this requirement, plus had the advantage of being something the customer can receive immediately.

Selling boxes and bars priced at 50 cents each, the troop netted more than \$600 in 20 days. That convinced them to schedule several more candy sales before the Philmont trip.

Another popular sales item was a 2-for-the-price-of-1 "pizza passport." The \$10 certificates, good for up to a year, brought the Scouts \$5 each, adding more than \$700 to the high-adventure fund in one month.

Thanks to a special-projects program, Troop 427 never lets money concerns put a damper on planning exciting outdoor ventures.

- The funnel-cake booth was an example of the troop's second kind of money-earner, which required the customers to come to the troop. The old-fashioned (and ever-popular) funnel cakes sold for \$1 each. The booth also offered ice water for 25 cents a cup to customers wanting an inexpensive way to quench



Ring up another sale for the Troop 427 high-adventure fund.

For two days at the annual Lorain County Metro Parks Pioneer Day Festival the Scouts of Troop 427 in Amherst, Ohio, sold nearly 1,000 funnel cakes. That effort put the troop \$700 closer to sending its Scouts on a camping adventure of a lifetime—a

from designated high-adventure money-earners accrue in individual accounts for each troop member, based on participation. Those who work the hardest reap the most rewards.

The goal was to have each boy earn at least half the cost of the New Mexico trip, which was scheduled for two summers hence. The ways and means

their thirst.

Another captive-audience money-earner was a "coffee break" at a nearby state highway rest stop. Serving coffee, soft drinks, donuts, and cookies, troop members on one weekend accepted donations totalling more than \$400 from weary travelers and hungry truck- (continued on page 43)

High Adventure Funding (from page 31)

ers. The troop now sets up shop at local rest stops several times a year.

To ensure no doubts about how the fund works, the committee drew up guidelines, including a formula for allocating earnings based on hours worked.

Participants are also permitted to transfer their funds to another person, which allows an adult who does not want to go camping to shift his earnings to his son's account. Such transfers, however, cannot exceed what the Scout earns on his own.

A year after its establishment, the fund totaled \$3,000. Although the original goal was a Philmont trip, some Scouts used portions of their accounts to pay their way on an Adirondack canoe trip. Others who were not able to go on the Philmont trek had their accounts available for future high adventures.

Another Money-Earning Success Story BISON-ON-A-BUN

If Scouting supporters groan when you try to sell them tickets to a unit spaghetti or chili supper, you may need to jazz up the entrée. How about buffalo?

The menu works for Troop 410, of Salt Lake City's Christ United Methodist Church. Every spring since 1963 they've hosted a Saturday afternoon buffalo barbecue dinner, the only money-earning project the troop needs for the year.

The meat is grain-fed bison, purchased from a South Dakota buffalo ranch. Parents do the cooking, Scouts do the serving and clean up. On the event's 25th anniversary last year, Troop 410 served dinner to 1,200 persons.

Those outings may include canoeing, backpacking, whitewater rafting, or another type of expedition. Whatever the choice, the special fund allows Troop 427 Scouts to plan a high adventure trip without worrying that the cost will dig too deeply into any parents' pockets. ■

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