

## BISHOP'S DINNER FOR SCOUTING QUICK TIPS



- A. What is it?** An annual conference (or district) event intended to bring church pastors, youth ministers and lay leaders together with civic youth agency officials to share information and ultimately grow scouting in the local church.
- B. Who attends?** From the “church”:
1. Bishop of an annual conference
  2. District superintendents
  3. Annual, district and local scouting coordinators
  4. Local church pastors
  5. Youth ministers
  6. Lay leadership
- From the youth agency:
1. Executive Director
  2. Other professional staff
  3. Top council volunteer leadership
- C. Why?** To grow and expand the scouting ministry in the local church
- To serve youth in the local church’s community
- To serve unchurched families
- D. Where?** At a local United Methodist church (remember, it is a church event and should be held in a local church setting)
- E. Cost?** Should be no cost to participants. Ask local UM Men’s chartered unit to assist in funding, or local UM donors. Use resources of the youth agencies and annual and district conferences.
- F. Methods?** Bishop’s Dinners may be more effective when they are conducted by district or by inviting a few districts (2-4, for example) at a time. It really depends on the annual conference, the bishop’s schedule and other dynamics and variables that should be considered.

## KEYS TO SUCCESS



### 16 Organizational Steps to Conducting a Successful Bishop's Dinner

1. Plan your work (see backdating schedule in **Guidelines for Organizing a United Methodist Bishop's Dinner**) and work the plan.
2. Plan the event in partnership with UMMen (president and/or key leadership of the district/conference).
3. Allow 3-6 months of planning in scheduling a Bishop's Dinner.
4. Organizing/Planning Committee (this is not a "one-man show").
5. District Superintendents must have ownership (meet one-on-one with each one and/or meet/present concept at Bishop's cabinet meeting).
6. Conduct Bishop's Dinner at a church facility (a local church, fellowship hall, etc.). It is a church event.
7. Send invitations to all churches (pastors, lay leaders) in a timely manner.
8. Youth ministers can be a key to ultimate success. Make sure to invite them.
9. Do not charge participants (develop sponsor[s], other funding sources).
10. Follow-up phone calls.
11. Concise (2 – 2½ hour) program.
12. Brief all presenters on program.
13. Recruit and train (brief) table organizers.
14. Covenant cards handed to Bishop by local pastors before departing.
15. Thank yous to appropriate persons (the Bishop, sponsors, etc.).
16. Follow-up to the event – where the work begins. District and local church scouting coordinator and professional staffs of the youth agencies must follow-up together and in partnership. (See steps to organizing a unit, club, etc. – **2005-2008 Guidelines: Scouting and Civic Youth-Serving Ministry**, copyright 2004, available at [www.Cokesbury.com](http://www.Cokesbury.com), or call 800-672-1789).

***For more information, contact:***

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