

SCOUTS-L

RURAL SCOUTING

Date: Mon, 29 Jul 1996 14:45:30 +0100
From: "R. D. \"Mike\" Kemp" <kempm@VICON.NET>
Subject: Roundtable Help!

Looking for the collective wisdom of the group.

I have recently agreed (?) to be Boy Scout Roundtable Commissioner for my district. District currently has 15 active Troops and is in a rural area. The history of Roundtable in my district is two or three Scoutmasters show up regularly and we end up talking to each other.

This year I am considering trying something new - rotating roundtable location among different Troops. This will vary the geographic location. Also, host Troop can choose day and time as long as it is scheduled during the third week of the month. I have spoken with a number of Scoutmasters at camp and they at least seem luke warm toward the idea. Anyone out there tried this before with any success? At the very least I'm hoping that the host Troop will have people there and someone may get interested and continue attending.

Suggestions on program ideas, how to build attendance, etc. are definitely welcome!

YiS,

R.D. "Mike" Kemp
Scoutmaster, Troop 25
Huntingdon, PA
Oneida District
Juniata Valley Council
Dist.

Was, am, and will forever be an
NE-V-119 -- Class of 1963
SM, JVC contingent, Jambo97
Monaken Lodge 103, Brotherhood
Boy Scout Roundtable Comm., Oneida

Date: Wed, 31 Jul 1996 07:29:35 CST
From: John Carminati <EP60JRC@SHELLUS.COM>
Subject: Boy Scout Roundtables

SUBJECT: Boy Scout Roundtables

My district is also a rural district. It consists of two major towns about 60

miles apart, horse ranches, dairy farms and nurseries. The southern town is

close enough to New Orleans that it has developed into a bedroom community. I

was roundtable commissioner for 1-1/2 years for this diverse group. The district has less than 25 troops. Attendance was about one third consistently.

Here are some of my observations.

1. Evening programs did not appeal to the outlying troops. Programs around

5pm did not work for the "commuters" and the SPL's conflict with sports practice. I was never able to find a good solution to this one.

2. Inability to get involvement of SPL's killed us. Other districts in our council had success if OA chapter meetings were held right before RT. A very successful district has theirs right before their district committee meeting. The key here is; if they travel, combine the meeting to make the evening more worthwhile.

3. Do not rotate your meetings to troops. The "willing" volunteers will be mined out in the first six months and then you have no program.

4. Stay in one place and at the same time. Communication in rural areas is poor at best.

5. Offer worthwhile programs. Don't rely upon troops for all of your staff. Some of our best meetings were when we had state agency reps speak.

Cover

programs such as Project WILD, shooting range officer, even an agency to promote fishing (like Louisiana needs more boats), safety afloat from the Coast Guard, etc. Also, don't forget the talents of Explorer Advisors.

6. Talk up camps, even those out of council and don't forget High Adventure.

7. Our poorest meetings were with topics that troops do routinely.

Examples

are first aid, cooking (except backpacking recipes), open discussions on leadership skills (not enough attendees to generate diverse views), common

merit badges (hiking, canoeing, etc.). These things rated high on my survey before I started RT. In the end, I guess people did not really want these but selected them because "they were familiar."

I hope this gives RT commissioners some ideas. My best in "Delivering the Promise."

YiS
John Carminati
ASM-Venture, Troop 85
CLANOF6@AOL.COM

..... John Carminati

Date: Wed, 31 Jul 1996 00:58:40 -0400
From: Pete Murray <pjmurray@IX.NETCOM.COM>
Subject: Re: Roundtable Help!

>This year I am considering trying something new - rotating roundtable
>location among different Troops. This will vary the geographic location.

Mike,

I wish you the very best of luck, but consistency is THE key to Roundtable participation. If they can't find you they will not be there. We have incorporated the OA lodge night and the Cub Scout Roundtable along with the Boy Scout Roundtable to keep everything consistent. Great programs as well as great word of mouth in training sessions all promote a super Roundtable.

Pete

Pete
AKA "Goodyear Pete", Hey you!, Mr. Cubmaster, and the "Professor of Cooking"