

**SCOUTS-L**

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**CUB  
SCOUTING**

Date: Mon, 26 Sep 1994 23:47:47 -0400 (EDT)  
From: "Michael F. Bowman" <mfbowman@cap.gwu.edu>  
Subject: Re: Cub Scout Suggestions

John Gareri,

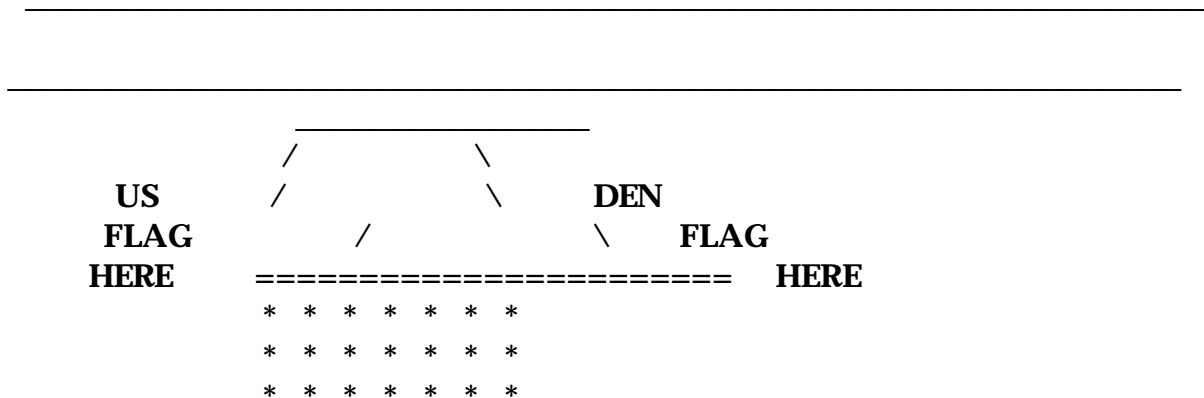
Let me see whether I can illustrate an idea on a multi-purpose den doodle (hope it comes out on your end similar to how I think its going to look).

Anyway the idea is to build a yard-arm that is roughly "T" shaped using 1"x1"s. On each side you can use eye-hooks to suspend an American Flag on the right and the den flag on the left. In the center and lower is a Den made plaque with each Scouts name in a different color across the bottom. Under the name is an eye-hook. At the beginning of the year you hang a yard of leather thong, thin shoe-lace or craft-strip of the same color as the Scout's name from each eye-hook (this prevent confusion later, because each boys names and thong are the same color). At an early den meeting set some rules on awarding beads. Sample: Attend a meeting - get a blue bead. Behave at a meeting - get a green bead. Complete an achievement - get a red bead. Go on an outing - get a purple bead. As beads are earned they are passed out. Announce that when each Scout reaches 25, 50, 100, 150 a prize will be awarded (Cub Scout Coin at 25, Cub Scout book marker at 50, Cub Scout key ring at 100, Cub Scout Frisbee at 150 - each is less than \$2.00 and can be paid for through den dues). Award the beads at a special part of the meeting or closing. Usually by the third meeting the

Scouts are counting their beads and everyone else's beads too. They learn quickly that behavior beads are real important towards keeping up. As the strands of beads get longer, the Scout can see his own progress. I saw one Scout with real behavior problems (broke a chair at his first meeting) really work his hind-end off to try an behave long enough to get two beads at every meeting. He wanted attention and he wanted to be first to get the "big" prize (didn't even know what it was). No guarantees, but it might work for some Dens.

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1 1



In addition this rig can be part of the opening and closing ceremony of your Den meeting with a place for the flags worked in. Then too it also is great to show at a Pack meeting. Just some more recognition at work.

Yours in Scouting, Michael F. Bowman, a/k/a Professor Beaver  
 Deputy District Commissioner Exploring, GW Dist., NCAC, BSA  
 Speaking only for myself, but with Scouting Spirit . . .  
 \_\_\_\_\_ mfbowman@CAP.GWU.EDU \_\_\_\_\_

From: gareri@osprey.us.dg.com ( John Gareri)  
Message-Id: <9409271922.AA13347@osprey.us.dg.com>  
Subject: Re: Cub Scout Suggestions  
To: mfbowman@cap.gwu.edu  
Date: Tue, 27 Sep 1994 15:22:26 -0400 (EDT)

Sounds good and makes perfect sense to me.  
THanks for the response.

JG

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|
| John A. Gareri
| Data General Corporation
| 4400 Computer Drive - MS G151
| Westborough, MA 01581
|
| Voice: (508) 898-7028
| Fax: (508) 898-4733
| Internet: gareri@osprey.us.dg.com
|-----|
| Soar with the Eagles...
| To never have a dream, is to never
| see a dream come true
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**Date: Fri, 14 Oct 1994 00:34:13 -0400 (EDT)**  
**From: "Michael F. Bowman" <mfbowman@cap.gwu.edu>**  
**Subject: Re: Help!!! Blue and Gold**

**Christine,**

**Try a mix of pot-luck and pizza. Many pizza places will either outright donate or give you a great deal. Our Pack always got about a dozen free pizzas from Pizza Hut and three or four buckets of chicken from KFC. We even got about 20 lbs of french fries from a hamburger joint. Various fast food outlets provided plates, plastic eating utensils, cups, ice, napkins, etc. Some of the local merchants were also willing to provide each Scout with promotional items ranging from pencils to book-packs (Blockbuster Video). The key is to ask the same merchants that you and others in your Pack have been patronizing over the years. Most can almost always find a way to help.**

**Yours in Scouting, Michael F. Bowman, a/k/a Professor Beaver  
Deputy District Commissioner Exploring, GW Dist., NCAC, BSA  
Speaking only for myself, but with Scouting Spirit . . .  
\_\_\_\_\_ mfbowman@CAP.GWU.EDU \_\_\_\_\_**

**Date:** Thu, 20 Oct 1994 23:43:25 -0400 (EDT)  
**From:** "Michael F. Bowman" <mfbowman@cap.gwu.edu>  
**Subject:** Re: Klondike derby for Cubs  
**To:** Susan Ganther <susan@isisa.oit.unc.edu>

Susan,

Add "keep'in warm". We did Klondike Derbys every year I was in Boy Scouts and my memory tells me it was pretty tough dragging a sled and doing all the stuff in the snow with frost on the face. With Cubs I'd keep the trail short and near a heated building to cut down on hypothermia. If you've got a big enough field with snow, try a snowman building contest for beauty not size. Firebuilding has its own reward in cold weather (eventhough many diehards would say leave that for Boy Scouting). About midway through the morning and afternoon session, you might want to cycle them through Yukon Jack's storytelling session. They get to come in someplace to get warm or at least sit around a roaring blaze and hear a good rendition of the Cremation of Sam Magee or a similar tale. One of the few times they'll be glad to sit for long.

Yours in Scouting, Michael F. Bowman, a/k/a Professor Beaver  
Deputy District Commissioner Exploring, GW Dist., NCAC, BSA  
Speaking only for myself, but with Scouting Spirit . . .

\_\_\_\_\_ mfbowman@CAP.GWU.EDU \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** Fri, 21 Oct 1994 17:45:32 -0400 (EDT)  
**From:** Susan Ganther <susan@isisa.oit.unc.edu>  
**To:** "Michael F. Bowman" <mfbowman@cap.gwu.edu>  
**Subject:** Re: Klondike derby for Cubs

**Michael, I love the storytelling break idea. I'll be sure to include that. Thanks**

**YIS, Susan**

Date: Sun, 23 Oct 1994 00:06:31 -0400 (EDT)  
From: "Michael F. Bowman" <mfbowman@cap.gwu.edu>  
Subject: Re: Space Theme at Cub Camp  
To: SCOUTS-L Youth Groups Discussion List <SCOUTS-L@TCUBVM.BITNET>

Jim,

One possibility is a simple game called robot command. Pair the Scouts together as teams. One becomes a space pilot, the other a repair robot. Tell them that their ship needs a minor repair. The pilot will give voice commands only. The robot can't ask any questions and can only do what he has been commanded to do. The first group done wins. Any number of simple tasks can be used. The idea is to foster team effort. For example, equipment could be a plastic bag, coffee can, 2 soup cans, a wire coat hanger, and two marbles. Instructions: The robot is going to make a new external antenna. Each team will without opening the bag, move the entire set of equipment 30 feet (prevents whispered dialog) and arrange the equipment so that there is a marble in each soup can, the two soup cans are balanced on the ends of the hanger, which must be on top of the coffee can, and the bag must be returned to the ship. Sounds simple? It takes a pretty good sequence of commands in the right order to make it happen. When they are in a hurry and things don't go quite right it gets better. If a team does well they should have something like this:

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[]    []    Soup Cans Balanced
-----    Hanger (A judicious squeezing helps)
 [ ]      Coffee Can
 [ ]
```



**It may help to have a correct solution already set up so they can see what they are supposed to end up having built. Remember the key is only the pilot gives commands and the robot only does what is commanded and no more.**

**Yours in Scouting, Michael F. Bowman, a/k/a Professor Beaver  
Deputy District Commissioner Exploring, GW Dist., NCAC, BSA  
Speaking only for myself, but with Scouting Spirit . . .  
\_\_\_\_\_ mfbowman@CAP.GWU.EDU \_\_\_\_\_**

**Date: Sun, 23 Oct 1994 22:49:41 -0400 (EDT)**  
**From: "Michael F. Bowman" <mfbowman@cap.gwu.edu>**  
**Subject: Re: Families in Cub Scouts**  
**To: Michael Grier <MDG2@PSUVM.PSU.EDU>**

**Mike,**

**In my years as Cubmaster, I found family participation at Pack Meetings and outings essential (including all kith and kin). Den meetings are a different kettle of fish.**

**Yours in Scouting, Michael F. Bowman, a/k/a Professor Beaver  
Deputy District Commissioner Exploring, GW Dist., NCAC, BSA  
Speaking only for myself, but with Scouting Spirit . . .**

**\_\_\_\_\_ mfbowman@CAP.GWU.EDU \_\_\_\_\_**

Date: Sun, 13 Nov 1994 00:59:16 -0500 (EST)  
From: "Michael F. Bowman" <mfbowman@cap.gwu.edu>  
Subject: BSA: Blue & Gold Banquet

Judy Barnett

Welcome!

For your Blue & Gold Banquet you may want to consider a skit put on by the parents. I've seen several varieties of a skit called "If we were Cub Scouts, We'd . . ." In the skit the parents borrow their son's neckerchiefs and hats for costume and then act out a den meeting. Of course the den meeting is full of mischief, goofs, silliness, etc. You can use your imagination to come up with typical things that Cubs do that can be made to be funny. The only caution is to avoid anything that will identify a specific Scout for ridicule or hurt someone's feelings. If planned well and with a sense of humor it can be pretty funny and at the same time be an indirect way to make points about conduct and behavior that works a lot better than nagging or lecturing. With a Pack as large as yours, make sure that everything said is audible, consider a microphone.

Another possibility for a Blue and Gold setting is a series of skits to tell the Scouting story. Each den does a QUICK 30-60 spot (keep the action moving).

Ask your local Order of the Arrow lodge whether they have a dance team that can perform for your Pack. A quick dance show can be great, especially, if the OA folks have good costumes. Make sure they know that they have ten or fifteen minutes. Don't go beyond 15 minutes - the Cubs can't keep up interest indefinitely.

You mentioned in passing that your Pack's rank advancement ceremony was in March. I hope that doesn't mean that's the only time ranks are awarded in your Pack. I know that a fair number of Packs like to have an annual rank ceremony. It has the advantage of allowing a super ceremony to be planned, but the drawback that many early advancers have forgotten by then what they did to earn the badge, reducing the effectiveness of the badges as means to reinforce positive development. I'm among those that advocate awarding badges as soon as possible after they are earned because the recognition can serve to reinforce all that the Scout has learned (doesn't work, if he's already forgotten what he did).

Speaking only for myself in the Scouting Spirit, Michael F Bowman  
Used to be a Beaver, National Capital Area Council, B.S.A.  
mfbowman@CAP.GWU.EDU (mfbowman@CAPACCESS.ORG after  
12/13/94)

**Date: Mon, 14 Nov 1994 08:07:30 -0600**

**To: "Michael F. Bowman" <mfbowman@cap.gwu.edu>**

**Subject: Re: BSA: Blue & Gold Banquet**

**Thanks for the suggestions. I really like the skit idea.**

**BTW Some of our boys do get their rank prior to March, last year  
(my**

**first in the pack) I noticed that most didn't even complete  
requirements**

**until mid Feb or early Mar. and then only with a push. Our boys  
were**

**Tigers (had 4), and only 1 had his rank prior to then. (my son, and  
he**

**was awarded his at the December pack meet).**

**YiS**

**\*\*\*\*\***

**\* Judy Barnett \***

**\* email: BARNETTJ@UTDALLAS.EDU \***

**\*\*\*\*\***

**Date: Wed, 16 Nov 1994 23:00:51 -0500 (EST)**  
**From: "Michael F. Bowman" <mfbowman@cap.gwu.edu>**  
**Subject: Re: BSA: Re: PRINTBlue & Gold Banquet**

**Chuck,**

**The skit in Scouting magazine is similar in that similar props are used, but that's about it. The Scouting magazine skit seems to have a much more serious theme about parents trying to be good Cub Parents and earning a badge for it. The skit I was suggesting is not to be taken seriously at all and has no such serious theme. Instead it is done completely in a sense of good humor where the parents pretend to be Cub Scouts, including mischeif, behavior meriting blowing out the conduct candle, etc. The goal in the latter case was to focus on Cub behavior.**

**Speaking only for myself in the Scouting Spirit, Michael F Bowman  
Used to be a Beaver, National Capital Area Council, B.S.A.  
mfbowman@CAP.GWU.EDU (mfbowman@CAPACCESS.ORG after  
12/13/94)**

**Date: Sat, 19 Nov 1994 02:36:06 -0500 (EST)**  
**From: "Michael F. Bowman" <mfbowman@cap.gwu.edu>**  
**Subject: Re: Team-Building Games**

**Ron,**

**Take advantage of the Cub Scout sports beltloop program and pick a sport that your Cubs can play with another Den. In the process they get recognition while learning a little about being a team.**

**A different approach is a treat that requires group effort - homemade ice cream. Somebody must have an old ice cream maker with a hand crank. Have the boys prepare the mix and get one started cranking. They won't last long cranking. Don't say anything. Just watch. They'll soon figure out that if they don't work together and help taking turns, there won't be any ice cream. :)**

**Speaking only for myself in the Scouting Spirit, Michael F Bowman  
Used to be a Beaver, National Capital Area Council, B.S.A.  
mfbowman@CAP.GWU.EDU (mfbowman@CAPACCESS.ORG after  
12/13/94)**

Date: Thu, 8 Dec 1994 23:06:37 -0500 (EST)  
From: "Michael F. Bowman" <mfbowman@cap.gwu.edu>  
Subject: BSA Cub Scout Blue and Gold Banquet  
To: BILL NELSON <nelsonb@aztec.inre.asu.edu>

Bill,

If you like a little light-hearted show-biz, games and a good feed, here's a thought - bear with me for a bit. This idea calls for a partial pot-luck and partially catered meal. Each family is asked to bring a salad or favorite desert. Pack announces that it will provide beverages and a surprise main course. During the set-up let it leak that you could only afford hot dogs and buns - lean year. Show a few bags of buns or even cook a few up in view for effect. Not what anyone had in mind - yetch. Stay with me though.

Arrange the room so that there is a very long serving table and see that things are laid out so that center of the tables stay empty (important!). You'll need at least one foot of continuous open space down the length of the table. It'll cause curiosity and that's good. Its also important that one end of this long table be within six feet of a kitchen or side door for the next step.

Once everyone is seated and opening formalities, etc. are completed announce that the den leaders have a skit. . . the enlarging machine. . most old-timers will think they know how it goes. Boo. Hiss.

Do the standard stuff. Introduce the great Scout enlarging machine. Den Leaders frame the space between the table and the door with a decorated sheet and make appropriate whirrs and other noises. Roll in a marble - out pops a soccer ball. Toss in a match box size car and out pops a radio



controlled car or tonka toy. Do a few of these gimics. (While attention is distracted place a few supports on the table like the things you use to hold a PC in a tower position. Make sure they're lined up). This done and the gimics done. Grab one of the aforementioned hotdogs wrapped in foil. Open it and make sure its overcooked to death with burned buns. Throw the whole thing by accident into the machine.

Out pops guess what? About 20 feet of submarine sandwich (you can take six foot subs and cut diagonally into individual slices, removing butt ends and joining into a longer one) all supported on top of a piece of aluminum or plastic guttering. The guttering (with judicious help is able to slide down the table until the entire production is visible). Instant main course arriving by a bit of surprise. You may want the gutter to be lined with plastic wrap and the sandwich tilted up for effect.

After all have been served, the remenants of the sandwich and plastic wrap are removed while the boys get busy on deserts. Fill the gutter and now you're ready for instant raingutter regatta. Of course you will have planned to have each den make various decorations that turn out to be small craft ready for sailing - they just didn't know why they were making them or for when.

Hand out various awards after whatever contests you like and move on to advancements.

Warning - this takes planning and staging! And because the banquet is for the Scouts, I think a few parents could help out here and there slipping quietly to the right places at the right time. Planning.

**Speaking only for myself in the Scouting Spirit, Michael F Bowman**  
**Used to be a Beaver, National Capital Area Council, B.S.A.**  
**mfbowman@CAP.GWU.EDU (mfbowman@CAPACCESS.ORG after**  
**12/13/94)**

**Date: Fri, 9 Dec 1994 10:17:24 -0700**  
**From: nelsonb@aztec.inre.asu.edu (BILL NELSON)**  
**To: mfbowman@CAP.GWU.EDU**  
**Subject: Re: BSA Cub Scout Blue and Gold Banquet**

>  
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>

**Thanks!**

**-bill**

**--**

**Bill Nelson, Webelos Den Leader**  
**Eagles Patrol, Pack 878**  
**Tempe District, Grand Canyon Council**  
**Phoenix, Arizona USA email: nelsonb@aztec.asu.edu**

**From:** "Mike Murdock" <Mike\_Murdock@unt.edu>  
**To:** "Michael F. Bowman" <mfbowman@CAP.GWU.EDU>  
**Date:** Tue, 13 Dec 1994 09:40:16 CST6CDT  
**Subject:** Re: BSA Cub Scout Blue and Gold Banquet

Mike (or do you prefer Michael?),

The info in your message is a fabulous idea! I would very much like to use it at our next B&G. Odd, but just last night I was beginning the plan for ours in February. THANKS for sending your info to the list.

Yours in Scouting,  
Mike Murdock  
Denton, Texas  
murdock@cc1.unt.edu

---

Oh give me a home where the Buffalo roam ...

---

> **Date sent:** Thu, 8 Dec 1994 23:06:37 -0500  
> **From:** "Michael F. Bowman" <mfbowman@CAP.GWU.EDU>  
> **Subject:** BSA Cub Scout Blue and Gold Banquet  
> **Originally to:** BILL NELSON <nelsonb@aztec.inre.asu.edu>  
> **To:** Multiple recipients of list SCOUTS-L <SCOUTS-L@TCUBVM.BITNET>

> **Bill,**

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> family is asked to bring a salad or favorite desert. Pack announces that

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- > ends and joining into a longer one) all supported on top of a piece of
- > aluminum or plastic guttering. The guttering (with judicious help is
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#### **Instant**

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- > Speaking only for myself in the Scouting Spirit, Michael F Bowman
- > Used to be a Beaver, National Capital Area Council, B.S.A.
- > mfbowman@CAP.GWU.EDU (mfbowman@CAPACCESS.ORG after
- 12/13/94)

**Date:** Tue, 13 Dec 1994 23:17:53 -0500 (EST)  
**From:** "Michael F. Bowman" <mfbowman@cap.gwu.edu>  
**Subject:** Re: BSA Cub Scout Blue and Gold Banquet  
**To:** Mike Murdock <Mike\_Murdock@unt.edu>

**Mike,**

**You can call me either Mike or Michael, just don't call me late to supper.  
Glad you enjoyed the Blue and Gold idea. Let me know how it goes.  
The  
important thing is to make it FUN and not to take it all too seriously,  
then everyone has a good time.**

**Speaking only for myself in the Scouting Spirit, Michael F. Bowman  
Prof. Beaver, Nat. Capital Area Council, BSA  
mfbowman@CAPACCESS.ORG**

**From:** Alan Houser <troop24@EMF.NET>  
**Subject:** Pack and Den Outings

**Paul N, who is one of my troop parents and Assistant Cub Scout  
Roundtable  
Commissioner (and just last Friday received the District Award of  
Merit),  
just asked me to dig something out of my old Cub Scout files, and I  
thought  
I would share it here for advice and comment:**

### **GUIDELINES FOR PACK AND DEN OUTINGS**

#### **Requirements:**

**1. A tour permit must be filed for every den outing. The permit  
must  
be signed by the trip leader and a member of the Pack Committee,  
and it  
must be sent to the Council Office at least two weeks before the  
outing.**

2. The trip leader must be at least 21 years of age and registered; the assistant leader must be at least 18 years of age. Two leaders are required at all times, and one leader for every five boys. At no time should a single adult be left with a single boy, except for parent and child.
3. All persons driving must be listed on the back of the tour permit with complete insurance information, or on the Pack's master list attached to the permit.
4. All persons **MUST WEAR SEATBELTS**. This is California State Law as well as a BSA requirement.
5. Any outing involving water activities requires Safe Swim Defense or Safety Afloat certification. If you don't know what that means, find someone who does or don't go near the water.

**Strong Suggestions:**

1. Before leaving, designate someone not coming along to be the telephone contact. If there are any problems, this person would be contacted by the trip leader or other adult and would then relay messages to the other parents not on the trip. This person must have all of the appropriate and current phone numbers as well.
2. During hikes, always lead with one adult and trail with another: no boy goes ahead of the leader nor falls behind the trailing adult.
3. The trailing adult should carry a first aid kit, and should know basic first aid.
4. Make frequent head counts to make sure that no one has become separated. Use the buddy system: each boy has one or two partners who must stay together through the hike.
5. Stop at all trail junctions so that everyone takes the same route. This allows the stragglers to catch up.
6. After returning to the trailhead, do not leave until all boys have



returned and have been accounted for. Count them as they are seated in the cars ready to leave.

7. Make sure that the last vehicle can start before everyone else leaves.

8. Make sure that your outing is not too strenuous for the age group you are leading. A rough estimate for hiking is half the age in miles: thus, most 7-year olds can be expected to hike about 3.5 miles. Some older Webelos may be able to go farther than 5 miles, but don't plan to go 10 miles unless you know they can do it without problems.

9. Carry water, at least one quart per person, more for longer hikes.

10. Be prepared for bad weather or darkness. Carry raingear and flashlights.

Alan R. Houser \*\* Scoutmaster, Berkeley Troop 24 \*\*  
troop24@emf.net

\*\* WWW page \*\* <http://www.emf.net/~troop24/t24.html> \*\*

Date: Thu, 26 Oct 1995 20:35:44 -0400  
From: James Magalee <JMags516@AOL.COM>  
Subject: Re: New Leader

In a message dated 95-10-19 09:54:29 EDT, buskb@ODESSA.EDU (KIM BARBER) writes:

>

>Hi! I'm a new leader for a den of wolves, and the experience has been

>crazy to say the least. I'm looking for any 'help' that could point me  
>in the right direction. I've had basic training and fast start, but need

>more help in keeping 6 eight year olds from killing each other and  
>getting bored too easily. Also any advice on discipline would be welcome.

>Thanks for your help.

>

>Kimberli Barber

>kbarber@odessa.edu

>Pack 23

>Odessa, Texas

**Keep it Simple, Make it Fun - or KISMIF. You may have heard of this in your**

**training, but I'm not sure if it's a universal saying in scouting.**

**Simplicity is the key to getting the boys' attention. Fun is the key to keeping their attention.**

**Like you, I've found the the Wolf and Bear aged kid's are the toughest to**

**keep interested. Make sure you keep them involved in the den meeting, all**

**the time. Remember how it was when you were in school. There was always a**

**teacher who would randomly call on students for answers. If you weren't**

**paying attention, you'd be very embarrassed. The same kind of theory works**

**here also, but with a twist. Make sure your meetings are full of fun games**

**and songs ( that shouldn't be too hard for the kids to enjoy). Those times**

**when you have to get down to the business of earning badges and arrow points,**

**make sure the kids are involved. As in the teacher analogy, ask questions**

**randomly. Illicit responses from them. Ask them what they think, then**

**discuss it. Be very generous with praise whenever someone participates.**

**These actions will help to encourage them to be involved and makes it easier**

**for them to focus on the task at hand. Then again, not every achievement is**

**very exciting. Make contests and games out of those achievements.**

**As far as discipline goes, we have tried a couple of things with mixed, but**

generally good, results. During Wolf and Bear years, we had a Den Candle.

The idea is to mark a spot on the candle and then light it during each meeting. When the candle burns down to the mark, the den goes out for ice

cream or some other fun outing. As long as the boys behaved and cooperated,

the candle stayed lit. But, if anyone misbehaved, the candle would be extinguished and the den would have to wait longer for our outing.

Peer

pressure alone helps with this, as no one Cub wants to be the one to jeopardize the rest of the den.

This year, our boys are Webelos and they are genuinely better behaved and

more motivated. So, as leaders, we have relaxed our thinking as well.

We

instituted three rules, which are posted for all to see as a reminder.

1) No

physical abuse, 2) No verbal abuse and 3) when necessary, everyone gets one,

and only one, verbal prompt. We still use the same type of reward system,

although instead of the candle, the den "earns" a token each week.

Six tokens

earn an outing. As long as six out of the seven boys don't break the three

rules, we give them the token. Let me explain the use of the verbal prompt.

When a boy misbehaves you can give as many warnings as you want, in order to

give a fair chance for him to comply. But when these don't work, you identify the next warning as "The Verbal Prompt", almost like a final warning, and he must comply. Failure to do so results in the loss of privileges (sp?), perhaps some time for solitary reflection (sitting in the

corner sounds so corny, but has it's place).

In really bad cases, where you might have a particularly unruly child or a

bully, there's nothing wrong with meeting with the boy's parents and

explaining why little Johnny is suspended from the next meeting.  
Encourage  
the parents to discover why he's acting the way he is and help him  
discover  
why it's not appropriate. Remember, never target the person, only  
the  
offensive actions. Listen for feedback as to how you might better  
serve this  
boys particular needs. We only had to suspend someone once. It  
hasn't  
happened since. The boy is a better scout and we're better leaders  
for him.

Hope this helps. I tried to keep this simple and fun, but I don't think  
I  
succeeded.

YiS,

Jim Magalee  
Webelos Den Leader  
Shark Patrol, Pack 318  
Rough Rider District, Nassau County Council  
Levittown, NY

Date: Fri, 10 Nov 1995 03:25:40 -0500 (EST)  
From: "Michael F. Bowman" <mfbowman@CapAccess.org>  
To: SCOUTS-L Youth Groups Discussion List <SCOUTS-  
L@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU>  
Subject: Re: Whoa! Cubs out of control!

John Campbell,

Meeting locations really have a lot to do with how young boys act, its  
almost like behavioral conditioning. The larger the room the greater  
the  
urge to take advantage of it for running and noisemaking, especially  
if  
it is a school cafeteria or gym where they are used to unrestrained  
expression. The best bet is to take advantage of the site for  
gathering  
activities to burn off energy with lots of physical activity that is

organized and fun. For your meeting there are several options depending on what you have available from your chartering organization:

- \* Move the meeting to a library or study room that is smaller.  
Libraries seem to instill quiet - behavioral conditioning?
- \* Move some tables around in the cafeteria to form a physical barrier;  
e.g. in a square with a single opening behind you.
- \* Find a dead-end hallway or a corner in a hall that creates barriers on two or three sides and put the Cubs in that area with your back to the rest of the hall.
- \* Move the meeting place to a parent's home, if one has a rec-room.
- \* Find a nearby Church that will let you use a small room.

Above all plan the meetings with plenty of activity and make it fun. If they are engaged with fun, it is easier to keep some sort of order.

Second rule is to realize that they have a lot of energy that has been pent up all day at school, which means that patience is a virtue for the leaders - there are just going to be some days. :-)

Speaking only for myself in the Scouting Spirit, Michael F. Bowman  
DDC-Training, GW Dist. Nat Capital Area Council  
mfbowman@CAPACCESS.ORG

Date: Fri, 10 Nov 1995 03:36:45 -0500 (EST)  
From: "Michael F. Bowman" <mfbowman@CapAccess.org>  
Subject: Citizenship Idea

In the Cub Scout Leader How-To-Book there is a section on Ethics in Action. A number of those activities tie in very nicely with learning citizenship values. One that is really great is a mock trial with the Cubs acting out the roles of prosecutor, defending attorney, jury, etc.

focusing on taking care of one's own things and respecting the property of other people. You'll find this one at page 11-23.

Speaking only for myself in the Scouting Spirit, Michael F. Bowman  
DDC-Training, GW Dist. Nat Capital Area Council  
mfbowman@CAPACCESS.ORG

From mfbowman@CapAccess.org Thu Nov 23 05:17:13 1995  
Subject: Den Dues - Doing It On the Cheap & A Challenge

John Campbell,

There probably isn't any single "right" answer about how much should be charged or how to collect dues. This is always dependent on the den and unit's circumstances, the ability of the families of the boys to fund activities, etc.

Generally, whether a Pack decides to collect dues and how is up to the Pack Committee and not its Cubmaster or Den Leaders. Some Packs charge only registration and Boys Life, while others try to collect enough to meet expenses. Other have dues and fundraising efforts. Whatever the choice this is up to the Pack Committee.

In your role as Den Leader you should really only be concerned about funding the activities of the Den (and if asked, collecting special activity fees for a Pack Activity). You are on the right track in trying to find a reasonable amount and using lots of resources to avoid costs.

The trick is to keep the amount of dues low enough that a Cub Scout could earn the money doing chores or low enough that all of the families could afford it. Many Dens charge a very low amount per meeting of \$.50 to \$1

and use it for some Den costs and for special activities like a Pizza or Ice Cream meeting. These dens then ask parents to foot the bill as necessary for craft kits and the like; e.g. birdhouse kit, leather kit, etc.

No matter how you cut it, or what method you use its almost always going to seem like the costs are more than what you collect. Almost every Den Leader ends up being a contributor. The trick is to learn how to make things or do things at low cost. A trip to the local library and/or bookstore may be a starter. There are dozens of craft idea books out there with no-cost to cheap craft ideas. Instead of buying a bird-feeder kit of wood, have the boys save plastic milk jugs. They can cut an area out and hang 'em by the handle and you have an instant bird-feeder at no great cost. You'd be surprised what you can do with milk cartons, paper towel rolls, toilet paper roles, empty food cans, macaroni, string, and a little glue. Tours of business, pizza places (free pizza), electrical generators, water companies, Government buildings, public museums, etc. can also be low impact if the parents take turns driving. Games with stuff from home are great too. Scrap lumber donated by construction contractors along with extra wiring, pipes, etc. can also be useful. Start thinking real cheap, scrounge, use "junk" that would become landfill fodder, and look for freebies. This can help cut costs dramatically. Hopefully a bit of this and that will mean no need to increase dues.

Now if you find this to be a hard thing, turn it into a treasure hunt game. Give each Cub a list of things to find at home and bring to the next meeting. The one with the most things on the list wins a prize (this can be a homemade thing made from what have you - it doesn't matter as long as it recognizes the achievement - it will be special. for, example paint a small food can gold and nail it to a piece of wood and in

your best hand with a marker write on the wood "Recycling Treasure Hunt Gold Award" or some such thing). If two or more get everything on the list have a run-off on collecting something else and make the award contingent on quantity. You'll end up with a basement or garage full of usable junk. The Cubs will have fun in the process and have some ownership. They'll also be curious about what is going to happen to this stuff. :-)

Try a "Weird Art" meeting. Have the Cubs bring any kind of junk they want - old clothes hangers, clothes pins, broken toys, a bit of cloth, etc. At the meeting tell them there is to be a contest for the best looking, ugliest, weirdest, most creative, and funniest sculpture they can create with the junk they have brought. Encourage them to trade junk or share. Make sure to have some extra junk to throw in - things that can bend, connect, etc. About all you'll need is a little glue, tape and maybe a few tools. Walk about with encouraging words as odd things take shape and have them vote on the awards. They'll be learning a lot about creativity in this session, something that will be valuable latter on. (I can still remember many of the 47 uses for a wire coat hanger from National Camping School).

A free CSP can be had for the best no-cost Den project posted. Any junk hounds out there?

Speaking only for myself in the Scouting Spirit, Michael F. Bowman  
DDC-Training, GW Dist. Nat Capital Area Council  
mfbowman@CAPACCESS.ORG

Date: Sun, 7 Jan 1996 07:08:15 +0000 (GMT)  
From: Ian N Ford <ianford@dircon.co.uk>  
To: "Michael F. Bowman" <mfbowman@CapAccess.org>  
Subject: Re: A Slap of the Tail



Hi Michael!

The Sixers' Council went quite well - we had five lads turn up. A few were missing because we had forgotten that the local soccer team were playing at home and some kids had already booked tickets.

We went over the job of the Sixer and Second i.e. making sure their Six was organised for opening and closing , leading ceremonies, setting an example on uniforming , behaviour etc. On camp the Sixer is responsible for his Six, looking after younger kids and " showing them the ropes ".

At meetings the Sixer looks after new kids (here kids join during the year, we don't have a " sign up " and start dens of all new kids.)

Then talked about recruitment - as I say, we don't have " School Night for Scouting " or whatever , recruitment is by existing boys bringing friends. Why do they join ? The kids said it was for activities , because it was fun , and because their friends were there. Here most new kids come with a friend, they are not signed up by a parent. So they have " targetted " possible new recruits. The pack is currently 22 and 30/36 is a good number.

We were talking about Leadership , currently Bill (CSL) , Martin ( a dad who has just joined as Pack Helper , and myself when available. We are asking parents to help on a rota, and we sold this to the boys so they could " mug " their parents. We identified activity badges that parents could help with , and the boys will try to work on mum and dad. Turns out they have also found one of the teachers to test the Book Reader badge.

The major issue was reorganising the Sixes now older Cubs have joined Scouts.

We now have a Senior Sixer and four Sixers and Seconds. This will be on a month's trial before appointments are confirmed. Quite a bit of time was spent working out which boys would work with whom then moving around to get four Sixes of roughly similar composition. We also identified kids who are in line for promotion if the number of sixes increases.

Then we spoke about camps. We are running a weekend camp for Sixers and

Seconds over Easter which will be subsidised, and we are "strongly encouraging" the older boys to attend. This is where they get intensive

training in camp skills. We expect the Cubs to set up their own tents, help with the cooking and cleanup and so on ... the comparison with BSA

would be more with a "New Scout" patrol than Cub Scout camping.

The way

our group tends to run it is we have the Sixer helped by a Scout, very

much like the New Scout P/L and a Troop Guide. We have one adult to every

four to six kids, but the boys tend to sort out most of the problems.

The

older kids are pretty good, and if we get the odd spot of homesickness

or whatever the older boys do the "big brother" bit which usually works.

Then in May we are running a four night camp doing the Explorer badge.

The Cubs will build shelters to sleep in, cook backwoods meals, do a compass course and two half-day wide games including navigation, first aid,

initiative test and so on. As you see, our program is <very> different from BSA Cub Scouting.

I discovered this my first year at BSA Summer Camp. I had four kids

straight up from Webelos, no older Scouts. We joined another troop to give the two-deep leadership, but basically it was me and these four guys. Being used to the British program I just said " OK , find a spot and set up your tent, then get your kit sorted out " and started to get my own gear organised. Durrh ! Well, they did manage to get the tent up after a few false starts and a few suggestions from me, and got their beds made up and so on. So what next ... the SP/L meeting. We picked one of the Scouts to be SP/L. " OK , take a notebook , go to the meeting, come back and tell me. " So off goes little new Scout into the hall with the Star and Life Scouts. But it worked. I was the Archery director as my " day job " - fortunately that year we had central cooking so they didn't have to cook. So the kids had to find me and check in at lunchtime and at the close of activities , then I was back on the site in the evening. So for a whole week these four new Scouts " did their own thing " ... they got themselves to classes , did their chores etc. and got a pretty good review from the staff. Last I heard all four were in Scouting, three as Eagles and one well on the way. It was only later that I realised what a baptism of fire I had given them ... I just <assumed> that Webelos graduates would be like my own older Cubs, most of whom have at least six and maybe ten or more nights of camping experience. They just <assumed> that this was what Boy Scouts was about and got on with it.

But back to the story of my Sixers ... By this time they had nearly wiped out the chips and sodas and it was time to wind up. We ran over some of the activities this term. We are doing the " World Faiths " activity badge and will be visiting a mosque and a hindu temple and finding out a

bit about Buddhism. The non-Christian kids will be visiting the church.

That way every Cub will get a chance to earn the " My faith " and " World

Faiths " badges. ( Our Hindu Cub will help with the temple visit as part of his " My Faith " badge project.)

We will also be doing the World Conservation Badge ( the panda badge )

and there will be some projects including setting up bird and bat boxes

in the garden at the back of the church. Perhaps I ought to explain that

where we meet we have a large campus which has the junior school ( 3-11)

which a lot of the kids attend , the Catholic Club ( where we meet) the

church and the priest's house , which was the home for a religious teaching order, and now houses the priest, the schoolkeeper (janitor) and

the basement is the meeting room and Scout stores. So we have a large

area. The Scouts can light fires and pitch tents in the garden or use the

school playground for games.

Next week the Cubs will also choose other badges to work on , both at Pack meetings and on their own. Our next meeting is in five weeks' time

in the Club , and we will teach them some new games and brush up on some

skills. Our other theme for the term is " back to basics " and this will include knotting , compass , map reading and so on.

So, a pretty good ninety minutes' work ...

Keep on a' Beaverin' ...

Ian

Date: Fri, 19 Jan 1996 02:23:04 -0500 (EST)

From: "Michael F. Bowman" <mfbowman@CapAccess.org>

**To: Jackie McNabb <mcnabb@WINNIE.FIT.EDU>  
Subject: Re: Blue & Gold**

**Jackie,**

**Here are two prayers from Bowman & Bryant, A Scout's Duty to God and Country Copyright 1995, which you and members of the list may use, provided that the author and book are acknowledged in any reprinting.**

**A grace for use as an Invocation at a Blue and Gold Banquet:**

**Scouts, family members and friends  
let us take this moment to offer a prayer.**

**Here in Your presence many friends and families  
are gathered to celebrate in fellowship  
the achievements and accomplishments  
of these young Cub Scouts.**

**We thank You for this fellowship and for helping  
these families to give their sons the opportunity  
to grow and learn to do their best at all they try.**

**Open the heart of each Scout to realize his duty to You  
and his promise to help others  
and give his parents joy and patience as  
he learns and tries new things.**

**For these gifts and the blessing of abundant food  
to nourish us in spirit and in body  
we give You thanks.**

**Amen**

**By Michael F. Bowman  
From A Scout's Duty to God and Country  
Reprinted by permission**

**Heavenly father, Lord, God, Maker of all things,  
We your children of our many faiths,  
Are gathered here as Scouts,  
We know you by many a name,**

But our need remains the same.  
Hear this our prayer.  
Be with us in all that we do.  
Open our hearts and minds to your will.  
Guide us with your gentle hand that we  
Might better live our Scout Promise and Law  
Knowing that we are thankful for the gift of life,  
The opportunity to serve, and the wonders of your creation.  
As we depart this our meeting place,  
Help us to know, to understand, and to do  
our "Duty to God and Country".

By Michael F. Bowman,  
From A Scout's Duty to God and Country  
Reprinted by permission.

Speaking Only for Myself in the Scouting Spirit, Michael F. Bowman  
a/k/a Professor Beaver (WB), ASTA #2566, OA Vigil Honor '71, Eagle  
Scout '67, Serving as Deputy District Commissioner for Training,  
G.W.Dist., Nat. Capital Area Council, BSA - mfbowman@capaccess.org

Date: Tue, 23 Jan 1996 04:49:10 -0500 (EST)  
From: "Michael F. Bowman" <mfbowman@CapAccess.org>  
To: SCOUTS-L - Youth Groups Discussion List <SCOUTS-  
L@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU>  
Subject: Re: Neckerchief trick

The acetone/water neckerchief trick is a crowd-pleaser to be sure. It  
is  
also dangerous! If you use this one be really careful, I know of one  
Scouter that burned off all his facial hair doing this one as I watched.  
he was red in the face. Sorry for the bad pun. :-( Couldn't resist.

Actually the burned leader was my Cubmaster from my days as Cub.

You may also want to be careful in deciding whether to use this one.  
As  
you know imitation is one of sincerest forms of flattery and this  
tribute

was paid to another Cubmaster I knew back in Indiana, when one of his

Cubs decided to perform this trick for the neighborhood kids in the family garage. He knew that he needed something that burned really well,

but couldn't recall just what was used. He also did not want to get caught and so avoided using his neckerchief by substituting a paint rag.

Then he mixed some white gas from the family camping cabinet with water,

but not quite the half 'n half mix. When he lit it off, it produced a brilliant fireball and he instinctively flung it away from himself.

The flaming rag landed on top of a stack of newspapers which caught fire. Panic was instantaneous and they all ran from the garage in haste. Before they calmed down enough to tell anyone, smoke was billowing from the garage. Later the fire department saved the house,

but the garage and a car were a total loss. Luckily nobody was burned or

injured physically.

Sadly that was the end of this young lad's Scouting career and he got a

bad reputation in school as "the firestarter." Eventually he started running with the wrong crowd as he was shunned by others. Later he ended

up having to have a lot of counseling.

I recall this one because the boy lived in our neighborhood and I can remember riding my bike over to watch the firemen put out the fire.

If you use this stunt, be careful to talk to your Scouts about how it was

done, the risks, and not playing with fire. Might be a great opportunity

for you to have a fireman show up and talk about fires for a few minutes.

On the other hand, it may be one of those things where we should be asking if what we are teaching is playing with fire.

Speaking Only for Myself in the Scouting Spirit, Michael F. Bowman  
a/k/a Professor Beaver (WB), ASTA #2566, OA Vigil Honor '71, Eagle Scout '67, Serving as Deputy District Commissioner for Training,

G.W.Dist., Nat. Capital Area Council, BSA - mfbowman@capaccess.org

Date: Fri, 9 Feb 1996 23:26:20 -0500 (EST)  
From: "Michael F. Bowman" <mfbowman@CapAccess.org>  
To: SCOUTS-L - Youth Groups Discussion List <SCOUTS-L@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU>  
Subject: Re: Den cheers

Don't worry too much if your Den comes up with nonsense cheers or ones that don't seem to rhyme. The main thing is for them to have fun and enjoy it. Cubs seem to have a better time with cheers, if they write them for themselves, no matter how awful to an adult. Just smile and nod. :-) After a few Pack meetings where all the Dens give cheers, they will revise theirs, if they think it isn't up to snuff.

One Den that I know of used to call themselves the eight baboons (Den 8) and for a cheer did their best imitation of a bunch of crazy baboons.

Another opted for the silent cheer. They all opened their mouths and jumped up and down in silence.

Then there was a Den where the Den Leader got a lot of coaching after the Pack Meeting - the boys were asked to do their cheer. The all stepped forward, did an about-face, bent over and made some imitations of musical fruit noises - PPPHHHBBBBBBBBBTTHH. Needless to say this was not repeated at the next meeting. Instead they all stepped forward, turned about and put on halos and pretended to strum harps. The parents who had been at both meetings got a great laugh.

Speaking Only for Myself in the Scouting Spirit, Michael F. Bowman



**a/k/a Professor Beaver (WB), ASTA #2566, OA Vigil Honor '71, Eagle Scout '67, Serving as Deputy District Commissioner for Training, G.W.Dist., Nat. Capital Area Council, BSA - mfbowman@capaccess.org**

**Date: Sat, 13 Apr 1996 17:17:16 -0400 (EDT)  
From: "Michael F. Bowman" <mfbowman@CapAccess.org>  
To: SCOUTS-L - Youth Groups Discussion List <SCOUTS-L@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU>  
Subject: Re: How much can Webelos do?**

**Gary,**

**Rappelling is a demanding activity that requires participants to be constantly aware of safety and in good physical condition. By its nature it can quickly become a very hazardous activity. Although, it is not prohibited by an age grouping in the Guide to Safe Scouting, you may want to review your plans with your District Executive to make sure that your Council's Risk Management Committee hasn't set a local rule on age or other restrictions for your area. BSA has two good publications that would be worth taking a look at in this area:**

**Venture Rock Climbing and Rappelling, No. 3480, and Outdoors Skills Instruction: Climbing/Rappelling. You may also want to take a look at Tom Lymans and Bill Riviere, The Field Book of Mountaineering and Rock Climbing, Winchester Press, 1975 and Bill March, Modern Rope Techniques, Cicerone Press, 1988. Another goodie is Gerrand Layne, Rock Gear, by Ten Speed Press, 1990.**

**I think that you will find that most Scouters would recommend that you keep these high adventure/high risk activities to older Scouts with a bit more physical development and maturity. There are a lot of great fun**

alternatives that Webelos can master without getting to the point where they feel a let down with a normal Scout Troop's first year camping program. You may want to consider the Troop(s) they will be going to after Cub Scouting and think about whether you are getting them so far ahead that they would likely drop-out of Scouting from boredom later. If this is not a problem, then remember at all times to keep safety first and foremost. Some adults may be pushing hard for the activity because they think it would be fun. If this push is hard enough you may have some young lads that end up getting scared to death and forming an aversion later on. On the other hand if the boys are gung-ho, you may find them exhilarated at what they can do. Best of luck in making a good decision after consultation with your professional staff.

Speaking Only for Myself in the Scouting Spirit, Michael F. Bowman  
a/k/a Professor Beaver (WB), ASTA #2566, OA Vigil Honor '71, Eagle Scout '67, Serving as Deputy District Commissioner for Training,  
G.W.Dist., Nat. Capital Area Council, BSA - [mfbowman@capaccess.org](mailto:mfbowman@capaccess.org)

Date: Tue, 23 Jan 1996 04:49:10 -0500 (EST)  
From: "Michael F. Bowman" <[mfbowman@CapAccess.org](mailto:mfbowman@CapAccess.org)>  
To: SCOUTS-L - Youth Groups Discussion List <[SCOUTS-L@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU](mailto:SCOUTS-L@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU)>  
Subject: Re: Neckerchief trick

The acetone/water neckerchief trick is a crowd-pleaser to be sure. It is also dangerous! If you use this one be really careful, I know of one Scouter that burned off all his facial hair doing this one as I watched. he was red in the face. Sorry for the bad pun. :-( Couldn't resist.

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On the other hand, it may be one of those things where we should be asking if what we are teaching is playing with fire.

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**a/k/a Professor Beaver (WB), ASTA #2566, OA Vigil Honor '71, Eagle Scout '67, Serving as Deputy District Commissioner for Training, G.W.Dist., Nat. Capital Area Council, BSA - mfbowman@capaccess.org**

**Date: Tue, 30 Apr 1996 14:29:36 -0400**  
**From: "Susan L. Barnard" <Buffalo950@AOL.COM>**  
**Subject: JUNGLE BOOK**

**Jungle Book is on our Council Calendar for 10/96 for the first time ever and**

**I will be the course director. I have alot of information and a syllabus for**

**Jungle Book (and attended Jungle Book in Tall Pines Council) , but I am still**

**looking for any ideas or suggestions that anyone can give me regarding the training.**

**(Jungle Book is Adult Leader Training for Cub Leaders set in a camping environment (cabins) and using role-play emphasizing Pack structure. Fun, games, crafts, etc. etc.)**

**Has your Council or District tried a program similar to it and how did it**

**go? Did you limit the number of participants? Did you use Basic Training as**

**the core training syllabus or did you use some supplemental modules? What**

**difficulties did you encounter if any? How much did you charge? What**

**outdoor activities did you use to enhance the programs?**

**I am seriously leaning toward supplemental training for role-playing Wolf**

**and Bear and the Web.Leader Outdoor for the role-playing Webelos.**

**Just with the initial promotion, we have had very positive feedback so far.**

**This is not a program that will interfere or duplicate Pow Wow - it will**

**enhance it. I'd appreciate input or ideas from anyone - I want our first**

**Jungle Book to go over grrrrreat! Thanks**

**Susan Barnard, District Training Chair, LaSalle Council, Indiana**

**(I used to be a Buffalo.....C-CS-7) .... and just got my beads on Friday!  
"Every boy deserves a trained leader"**

**From mfbowman@CapAccess.org Tue May 7 23:28:25 1996**

**Date: Tue, 7 May 1996 23:28:24 -0400 (EDT)**

**From: "Michael F. Bowman" <mfbowman@CapAccess.org>**

**To: SCOUTS-L - Youth Groups Discussion List <SCOUTS-L@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU>**

**cc: Multiple recipients of list SCOUTS-L <SCOUTS-L@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU>**

**Subject: Re: Crossover Ceremony for WEBELOS--Help!**

**Bruce and Sam,**

**The stunt you described is one that we discussed here on Scouts-L in January with several opinions expressed pro and con. While the ceremony is impressive, I am troubled by a few things:**

- 1. We teach by example - how many times have we heard a Scouter admonish a Scout about playing with fire? Yet it is okay for us to do so?**
- 2. Why is it necessary to blame one of the boys for not holding the wire properly, if the neckerchief burns? Whose idea was this and who goofed? You the leader did. You are teaching the boys how to blame someone else for your mistakes when you do this, which isn't what we should be doing.**
- 3. When each neckerchief is submitted to fire, the odds go up that one will get charred. Why spoil the Scout's transition by having this happen as though he didn't or almost didn't pass this magic test?**
- 4. Finally, many meeting places do not allow open flame in their building and this ceremony could create some problems with a chartered partner.**

**I am reposting an earlier response that I made on this subject below:**

**Date: Tue, 23 Jan 1996 04:49:10 -0500 (EST)**  
**From: "Michael F. Bowman" <mfbowman@CapAccess.org>**  
**To: SCOUTS-L - Youth Groups Discussion List <SCOUTS-L@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU>**  
**Subject: Re: Neckerchief trick**

**The acetone/water neckerchief trick is a crowd-pleaser to be sure. It is also dangerous! If you use this one be really careful, I know of one Scouter that burned off all his facial hair doing this one as I watched. he was red in the face. Sorry for the bad pun. :-( Couldn't resist.**

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**Cubs decided to perform this trick for the neighborhood kids in the family garage. He knew that he needed something that burned really well,**

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**Then he mixed some white gas from the family camping cabinet with water,**

**but not quite the half 'n half mix. When he lit it off, it produced a brilliant fireball and he instinctively flung it away from himself.**

**The flaming rag landed on top of a stack of newspapers which caught fire. Panic was instantaneous and they all ran from the garage in haste. Before they calmed down enough to tell anyone, smoke was billowing from the garage. Later the fire department saved the house,**

**but the garage and a car were a total loss. Luckily nobody was burned or injured physically.**

**Sadly that was the end of this young lad's Scouting career and he got a**

bad reputation in school as "the firestarter." Eventually he started running with the wrong crowd as he was shunned by others. Later he ended up having to have a lot of counseling.

I recall this one because the boy lived in our neighborhood and I can remember riding my bike over to watch the firemen put out the fire.

If you use this stunt, be careful to talk to your Scouts about how it was

done, the risks, and not playing with fire. Might be a great opportunity

for you to have a fireman show up and talk about fires for a few minutes.

On the other hand, it may be one of those things where we should be asking if what we are teaching is playing with fire.

Speaking Only for Myself in the Scouting Spirit, Michael F. Bowman  
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Date: Wed, 15 May 1996 02:38:16 -0400 (EDT)

From: "Michael F. Bowman" <[mfbowman@CapAccess.org](mailto:mfbowman@CapAccess.org)>

To: SCOUTS-L - Youth Groups Discussion List <[Scouts-L@tcubvm.is.tcu.edu](mailto:Scouts-L@tcubvm.is.tcu.edu)>

Subject: Re: Number of boys in a den

Jan,

There is no absolute rule on the number of boys in a den. The policy recommendation is that a den be six to eight boys. This gives enough to

split into smaller groups for projects and games. Even with eight boys a

den leader is likely to have his/her hands full. When a den starts to grow beyond eight, the Pack should give serious thought to splitting the

den to a more manageable size. It isn't fair to either the leaders or Cubs to have huge dens where individual attention gets lost in dealing

with behavior problems and just keeping most corraled. What you want to avoid is a situation where the den is more like a mob than a den.

**Speaking Only for Myself in the Scouting Spirit, Michael F. Bowman a/k/a Professor Beaver (WB), ASTA #2566, OA Vigil Honor '71, Eagle Scout '67, Serving as Deputy District Commissioner for Training, G.W.Dist., Nat. Capital Area Council, BSA - mfbowman@capaccess.org**

**Date: Tue, 28 May 1996 13:37:43 -0500**  
**From: Wendy Meador <nhmeadors@TOP.MONAD.NET>**  
**Subject: Rudyard Kipling Award**

Since several of you have requested more information on this award I thought I'd go ahead and send it to the list. Here is a brief summary.

The Rudyard Kipling Den Award is given out by the District Advancement Committee of the Daniel Webster Council (our local council, you may have to ask yours I guess) to qualifying Dens in recognition of a Den's achievements in several areas.

1.SPIRIT - have a den flag and rally around it. Use your den cheer.

Keep den records up to date for 3 months.

2.DEN MEETINGS - hold 3 den meetings each month for 3 months.

3.GOOD TURN - Pack approved service project within 3 months.

4.ADVANCEMENT - have at least 3 members earn at least 2 beads each  
(3 Webelos - 3 Activity pins each) within 3 months.)

5.UNIFORM - be uniformed correctly at each Den meeting and Pack event.

6.PACK PARTICIPATION - participate in 2 pack meetings within 3 months.

Participation includes leading Pack in a song, skit, cheer, opening, or closing ceremony.



**7.OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES - hike or other outdoor activity within 3 months.**

**8.MEMBERSHIP - build den to a minimum of 6 members (10 max.)**

**9.TRAINING - have a Basic Trained Leader, with an Assistant Den Leader,  
and/or a Den Chief.**

**10.Have an active Denner program.**

**Awarding is based on successful completion of 8 of the ten above listed requirements. The first 5, are MANDATORY requirements.**

**The first time your den earns this award you will recieve the Rudyard Kipling round patch and the rocker that goes along with the rank during which it was earned. Each time after just the new rocker. Awards can only be earned once for each rank, you cannot go back to earn an award.**

**If your District does not have this Award maybe you could initiate it. It is quite challenging an we have a neat Indian ceremony when the award is presented.**

**I will send all the info by snail mail if anyone would like. YIS,  
Wendy Meador**

**Date: Sun, 9 Jun 1996 02:52:48 -0400 (EDT)  
From: "Michael F. Bowman" <mfbowman@CapAccess.org>  
To: SCOUTS-L - Youth Groups Discussion List <SCOUTS-L@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU>  
cc: Multiple recipients of list SCOUTS-L <SCOUTS-L@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU>  
Subject: Re: What would have helped...?**

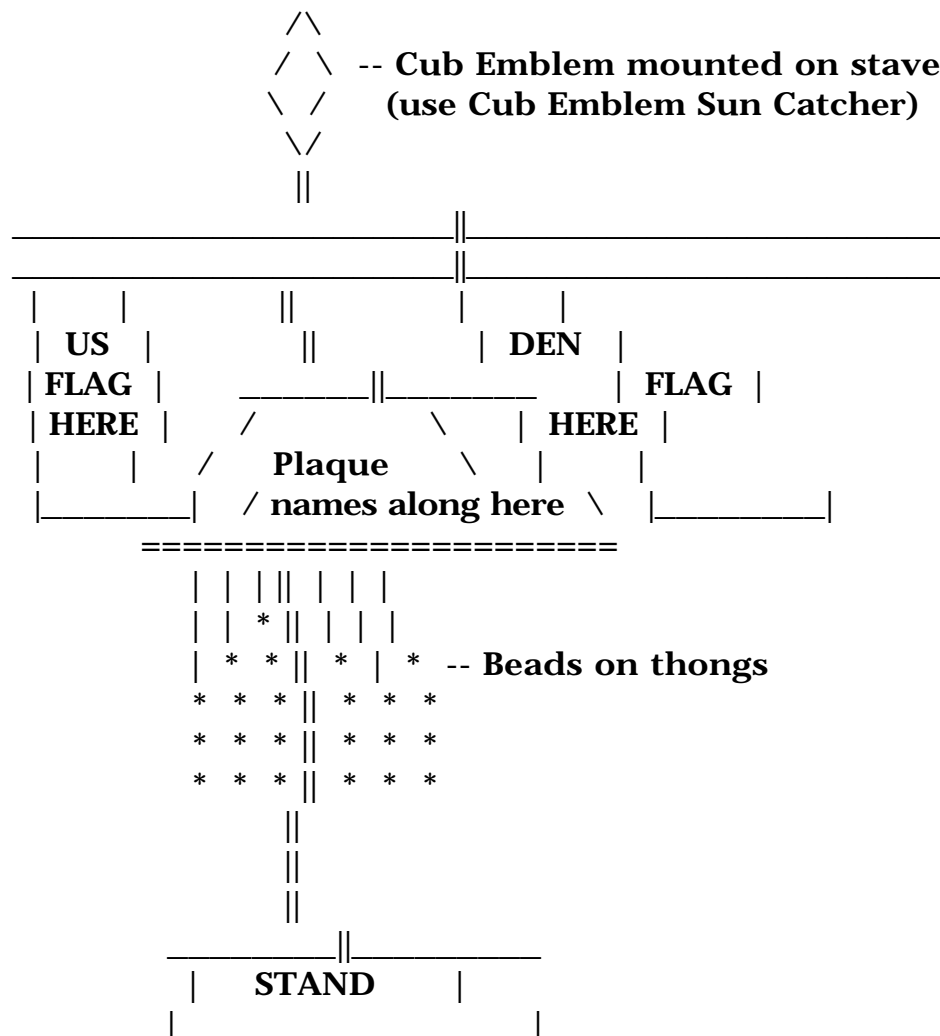
One of the ideas that was mentioned in this thread was knowing about a "den doodle" which is used to encourage good behavior, provide immediate recognition of accomplishments, and to instill some pride & self-esteem.

Let me see whether I can illustrate an idea on a multi-purpose den doodle (hope it comes out on your end similar to how I think its going to look).

Anyway the idea is to build a yard-arm that is roughly "T" shaped using 1"x1"s. On each side you can use eye-hooks to suspend an American Flag on the right and the den flag on the left. In the center and lower is a Den made plaque with each Scouts name in a different color across the bottom.

Under the name is an eye-hook. At the beginning of the year you hang a yard of leather thong, thin shoe-lace or craft-strip of the same color as the Scout's name from each eye-hook (this prevent confusion later, because each boys names and thong are the same color). At an early den meeting set some rules on awarding beads. Sample: Attend a meeting - get a blue bead. Behave at a meeting - get a green bead. Complete an achievement - get a red bead. Go on an outing - get a purple bead. As beads are earned they are passed out. Announce that when each Scout reaches 25, 50, 100, 150 a prize will be awarded (Cub Scout Coin at 25, Cub Scout book marker at 50, Cub Scout key ring at 100, Cub Scout Frisbee at 150 - each is less than \$2.00 and can be paid for through den dues). Award the beads at a special part of the meeting or closing.

Usually by the third meeting the Scouts are counting their beads and everyone else's beads too. They learn quickly that behavior beads are real important towards keeping up. As the strands of beads get longer, the Scout can see his own progress. I saw one Scout with real behavior problems (broke a chair at his first meeting) really work his hind-end off to try and behave long enough to get two beads at every meeting. He wanted attention and he wanted to be first to get the "big" prize (didn't even know what it was). No guarantees, but it might work for some Dens.



In addition this rig can be part of the opening and closing ceremony of your Den meeting with a place for the flags worked in. Then too it also is great to show at a Pack meeting. Just some more recognition at work.

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Date: Sat, 27 Jul 1996 12:43:36 -0400 (EDT)  
From: "Michael F. Bowman" <mfbowman@CapAccess.org>  
To: SCOUTS-L - Youth Groups Discussion List <SCOUTS-L@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU>  
cc: Multiple recipients of list SCOUTS-L <SCOUTS-L@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU>  
Subject: Pack Meeting Outline - Was Flag Favors

Ron,

Here are some planning tips for a great Pack Meeting:

When scouts have fun, they want to keep coming back. To succeed, remember this simple rule: "Keep It Short & Simple - Make It Fun (KISSMIF) and use VARIETY." To achieve this goal, advance planning is critical. As you plan your pack meeting, consider the following:

Plan your meetings well in advance using themes or special activities as focal points.

Confirm the time and place of the meeting. Reserve meeting places well in advance.

Make sure that someone is responsible for opening the meeting place ahead of time.

**Assign den responsibilities in advance; e.g. set-up, opening, skits, songs, stunts, closing, clean-up.**

**Make sure that arrangements are made for transporting displays, props, special equipment, etc.**

**Make sure that awards, badges, pins, etc. are ready for presentation before the meeting.**

**Try to have displays set up before the meeting.**

**Have a gathering activity planned and use it when scouts arrive.**

**Conduct an Opening Ceremony that is serious and impressive.**

**While you have the scene set, transition to introductions and inductions.**

**Build spirit with den cheers, den reports, rousing songs and group activities.**

**Entertain with skits, stunts, songs, and games.**

**Take time to recognize pack and den accomplishments.**

**Have a Webelos Den demonstrate something related to an activity badge.**

**Use a song, story, or other device to transition the group to a serious setting.**

**Present awards and recognitions with an impressive ceremony.**

**Give special recognition to special accomplishments.**

**Recognize adult contributions - thank yous and special awards.**

**Give a very few words on coming events (give details in handouts, newsletters)**

**Have a scouter's minute - leave the scouts with something to ponder**

**Conduct a closing ceremony.**

**Serve refreshments (optional).**

**Clean-up the meeting site and leave it as good as or better than you found it.**

**A Word 6.0 version of this with graphics suitable for a training handout**

**can be found at the USSSP Web Site and at <ftp1.usscouts.org/usscouts/ScoutDocuments/Cubs> for downloading.**

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**Date: Sat, 14 Sep 1996 15:47:25 -0400 (EDT)**

**From: "Michael F. Bowman" <[mfbowman@CapAccess.org](mailto:mfbowman@CapAccess.org)>**

**To: SCOUTS-L - Youth Groups Discussion List <[SCOUTS-L@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU](mailto:SCOUTS-L@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU)>**

**Subject: Re: Pack Split**

**Mike Gay,**

**While there are no perfect textbook answers on who to go about splitting  
a Pack, here are a few ideas that may help:**

- 1. Try to develop a concensus among the parents about a split - but don't do it, if it will hurt the program offered to the boys. Most of the time it will make it better if the unit is really big (over 100) because the individual Scouts will get more personal recognition and chances to participate.**
- 2. Plan or target a time several months down the road for the split.**
- 3. Encourage each leader at the Pack level to have a shadow leader - one who will do the same job in the new Pack. After a few months of sharing the load the second person will hopefully have picked up some of the**

corporate experience and know how to ease the transition.

4. For the dens, work with the den leaders and families over this time to try to make sure the new unit has a good healthy mix of Tigers, Wolves, Bears, and Webelos.

5. Nobody should be forced to stay or go.

6. Work out a plan with the current chartering organization on how to deal with the finances. All of the current members will have paid registration fees and contributed to fundraising. And although the money belongs to the chartered organization, most will be glad to make a proportionate distribution of assets to the new unit. You should work with your professional staff on this one.

7. Develop some agreements before the split on how to handle future recruiting, fundraising, meeting nights, and the like so that later on down the road the two units don't end up at each other's throats over one of these issues.

8. Plan a few joint activities for the first few months - Pack outings where the boys can still be with their friends from before the split. By forcing sharing there is less chance later for unhealthy relationships to develop.

9. Throughout the process continue to evaluate, remaining flexible to change in the interests of the boys.

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