

SCOUTS-L

PACK FINANCES

From mfbowman@CapAccess.org **Mon Jan 27 00:14:16 1997**
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To: SCOUTS-L - Youth Groups Discussion List <scouts-l@tcu.edu>
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Pam,

You asked for suggestions on fundraising that would be fair to all of the boys. Any fundraising that keeps the Pack treasury afloat allowing them to have a great Scouting experience is probably going to be fair to the boys. Huh? For most of these Cubs, they are not the ones who make the final decision on whether to participate in fundraising - it doesn't happen without their family's support. When a parent won't allow the Cub to help raise funds or is unwilling to support the Cub, he won't be able to do much about it. These same boys need Scouting and maybe more so than the boys whose parents help them more. So anything that would penalize them or limit their ability to participate wouldn't be fair to them.

The parents are the ones who complain about fundraising being fair in most cases like this. I think the real question is whether your fundraising is fair to the families involved. The solution of giving families the choice to either participate or pay a higher fee to make up the difference is probably a good one, if the family has the resources to pay. If they don't have money, this approach may not be a good one as far as the Cub is concerned - it may lead to him not being able to participate. Maybe there is a middle ground somewhere. Could some of the parents who aren't doing fundraising help in other ways? Would it help if there were incentives? For example, you could hold a special fundraiser's reward activity where only Cubs who participated could attend - say a special Pizza fest, bowling, game night or whatever.

There may well be some parents that just won't participate or allow their son to participate at all and they also may be the ones that tend to freeload on everything else. At this point I guess it comes down to

being a little less selfish and sharing a bit more with the boys whose ill fortune it was to have parents that aren't quite so wonderful as the ones doing all the complaining. ;-) If we want the boys to learn a sense of civic responsibility, we have to demonstrate that here. We can either teach them to consider what's good for the community or what's good for me as the way to make decisions by how we make decisions.

**Speaking only for myself in the Scouting Spirit, Michael F. Bowman
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