

SCOUTS-L

**BLUE & GOLD
HISTORY**

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From: "Michael F. Bowman" <mfbowman@CapAccess.org>
To: Richard Fletcher <RICHARD.FLETCHER@WORLDNET.ATT.NET>
cc: Multiple recipients of list SCOUTS-L <SCOUTS-L@TCUBVM.IS.TCU.EDU>
Subject: Re: History of the Blue & Gold
In-Reply-To: <32EFA1E3.26F@worldnet.att.net>
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Richard,

The best short history of Blue and Gold banquets that I've run across is in BSA's History of Cub Scouting, No. 3849, ISBN 0-8395-3849-9. The story of the Blue and Gold originates in the depression years of the 1930s. In 1933 "Cub Leaders' Round Table" suggested Parent-Cub dinners. Some of the first ones noted were in Milwaukee; Wilcox, Arizona; and Michigan City, Indiana. Pack 1 of Michigan City started the tradition of pot-lucks, but with a twist. The dads were to bring utensils made of wood and carved, sawed or whittled by the cub and his dad. Throughout the later years of the 1930s there were a number of father and son bean dinners and Cub family dinners. In the early 1940s the name "Blue and Gold Banquet" started to be used and first appeared in BSA literature in 1943, although planning a family dinner had been part of Pow Wow training for two years by then.

If I had to do a quick introduction to the history of the Blue and Gold, I think I'd tell the Pack that the idea of a Blue and Gold Banquet is a very special reminder about the Cub Scout motto "Do Your Best." Why? Because when times were hard during the depression and when families were separated during a terrible war, everyone did their best for their families to celebrate the accomplishment of young Scouts. As then we are proud of our Cubs because when things get tough, they always do their best.

Speaking only for myself in the Scouting Spirit, Michael F. Bowman
Dep. Dist. Commissioner-Training, G.W. Dist., NCAC, BSA (Virginia)

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