

SCOUTS-L

SCOUT SHOW

Date: Tue, 29 Apr 1997 21:13:23 +0000
Reply-To: Lorie McGraw <llmcgraw@WORLDNET.ATT.NET>
Sender: Scouts-L Youth Group List <Scouts-L@tcu.edu>
From: Lorie McGraw <llmcgraw@WORLDNET.ATT.NET>
Subject: Some Ideas from our Expo

Hello to the List:

Just finished our Scouting Expo '97. Saw some really good exhibits and a couple stand out for possible activities at pack/den Meetings or Cubborees, etc. Some good ideas follow:

Stand in a Bubble: A hula hoop was pulled over a scout, making a bubble with the scout on the inside. This was Soooo cool! My scouter-friend Karen's pack was responsible for this excellent booth and I am sure that I can get all of the directions for it and post to the list. Basically the way it worked was the scout stepped onto a round platform (rug covered tire) that was set in a small kiddie wading pool. A hula hoop suspended by ropes was then pulled up over the scout. The wading pool was

filled with bubble solution and the hula hoop was covered with what looked

like fleece (like is on a car washing mitt) to hold the solution long enough to make the bubble. Fantastic!!

Engineers's Badge: Various types and styles of catapults were demo-ed and paper bridges were being constructed to hold the weight of toy

matchbox cars. Pulley systems were also there .

Lift Your Parent: kids got to lift their parent (or leader) by using an 8 foot (2.5 m) long 2x4 (narrow plank) set with a block of wood (fulcrum) near one end. The leader stood on the short end, the kid stepped on the long end, and you should have seen their faces!

Semaphore: Large semaphore flags were made out of felt attached to pipes for the handles, with an enlarged poster showing the semaphore alphabet. Great fun!

Sand Painting: Baby food jars, paper funnels (sno-cone cups with tip snipped) and bamboo skewers, Salt (cheaper than builder's sand and whiter!) colored with dry Tempera paint with each color in separate plastic boxes (shoebox sized). Kids went down the line adding layers of colored "sand" to their jars, then after each layer take the skewer (or any thin stick) and push down the inside edge of the jar, next to the glass. The colored sand will follow the lines, creating a very pleasing and colorful design. (Important! Fill the completed jar to the very top with "sand", or the design will shift and get blurry or lost.) This craft is fashioned after

the Southwest US Indians sand painting and is a very satisfying and simple craft for even very young scouts and siblings. I liked the economy of using salt, and the recycling of the baby food jars.

Log Tug-o-war: Attach two ropes (using the proper knots, of course) to a 3 ft (meter) length of cut log, one around each end. Make the ropes long enough to accomodate the number of scouts on the teams, or shorter for

individual competition. Make a large loop in the end of each for the 'anchor' person. Lay out 2 lines of cord (or make a mark in the ground), one at each end of the log. Now tug the log over your line (closest to you), while the opposing team tries to do the same. the kids loved this more than regular tug o war.

There were about 100 exhibits, and I will try to add some more over the next week or so. Lots of great DO cooking, too!

Hope you are all well and happy!

YIS

Lorie McGraw <llmcgraw@worldnet.att.net> Wolf Leader Pack 410 Den 4
Indian Waters Council, Etowah Creek District Columbia, SC
"He's dead, Jim. You get the tricorder, I'll get his wallet!"

Date: Wed, 14 May 1997 16:32:53 -0500
From: "settummanque, or blackeagle (Mike Walton)"
<blkeagle@DYNASTY.NET>
Subject: Re: Scout Show

George Huffman asked:

>Our Council has started to plan for a two day Scout Show for the spring >of
1998. It will be held in an outdoor facility with camping for participants
>(Boy Scout Troops and Family-Cub Scout camping). We are rather >curious
as
to what others have found to be keys to success for their >Scout Shows.

Keys to successful Scout Shows (aren't you glad that I had this on the top
of the file cabinet that I was rearranging?? *broad grin*):

* A clear "concept" and "picture image" of what your're looking for (Atlanta
Area Council, Atlanta; Middle Tennessee Council, Nashville;
Great Salt Lake Council, Salt Lake City)

In the package that you send to the chartered partners and unit leaders,
include a page which describes WHAT IS a Scout Show as seen by your
staff

members. There's a alful lot of new Scouters that have NEVER been to a

Scout Show, have NEVER heard of one, or have NEVER participated in one before. This will also dispell the ideas that some Scouters have that a Scout Show consists of "High Adventure-type" things like rappelling from the top of the building or rope bridges suspended over water or pinewood derby races or flashing lights and sirens every twenty minutes from the Explorers.

By giving your staff's concept of what kinds of things goes on during a Scout Show, you eliminate most of the questions that field Scouters (and some professionals) have: What goes on and what kinds of things can we do??

A CONCEPT is DIFFERENT from a THEME. The "Theme" simplifies for the audience the environment under the "concept" is carried out.

* Varied amount of display space (Old Kentucky Home Council, Louisville)
Try to get units with similar-type themes spaced out so that visitors won't see "rope-making machines" twice on the same aisle (or in the same section).

But DON'T ask units to seek approval on a booth topic in advance or you'll get a poor turnout.

* Varied amount of "white space" (Atlanta Area Council, Atlanta)
Don't "bunch up" display space just because you can do it. Visitors love to see exhibits, but they enjoy seeing space between them to "rest their eyes and ears" before the next group. At Atlanta's Scout Shows, there's a built-in "spacer" between every five booths, to allow for such things as telephone/electrical/water pipes, walk-throughs for staff members and for the *uneventful* emergencies.

* Varied amount of action (all Councils)
People come to such a thing for three reasons: to see their sons/daughters in action, to see what "Scouting" is all about, and to because someone sold them a ticket and they're curious. Make them see what Scouting is all about, emphasize the youth involved in the program, and give them value for the contribution to Scouting that they made.

* Various types of activities (all Councils)
Most shows have exhibits centered around the theme of the show. Include also such "everyone knows about it" things like uniform placement and wear,

summer camp and day camp activities, questions and answers for key Scouting volunteers and professionals, a map of the Council and how it's divided into Districts, and program booths for Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting, Exploring (and I'll add here, their options and special programs within them). Don't be afraid to add "winners" like youth protection, risk management, professional and volunteer selection, and United Way/Friends of Scouting/Sustaining Membership Enrollment....the community wants to know that Scouting is being run professionally, that the program is being managed proficiently, that the people involved as leaders and coaches are selected with care and concern, and that everyone involved are doing it with the good of the community's youth in mind.

*** Plan for "Plan B" (all Councils)**

If you have an outdoor show, what do you need to do to move it indoors? If you have an indoor show, what do you need to do to move it outdoors? Situations, even at the very last minute, may dictate you to move it or part of it out or in and you need to **BE PREPARED** for such a instance.

***Roving displays (Scioto Area Council, Portsmouth; Golden Empire Council, Sacramento)**

Explorer Posts and OA dance teams provide the best form of such a "roving display". While other events are being set up, and during "low traffic times", those displays and demonstrations can be moved from place to place within the confines of the facility. These add additional color to the overall event, places visitors and observers right "in the middle of things" and gives them a close-up look at Scouting today. The roving display need not be dramatic but illustrative of today's Scouting program and managed/emceed by Scouts/Scouters that are familiar with the program, the demonstration, and can answer questions from the "small crowd".

***Various "Hands-On" demonstrations (all Councils)**

The Scout Show should be "interactive" to coin a popular computer phrase. The program should have an overall theme but if there's a neat way of cooking popcorn that a unit does; a set of skits that a unit does really well; or a travel destination that doesn't exactly fit to the overall theme of the

program, let them do it. At the same time, let the audience feel, hold, work, move, throw or click as much as can be done during the entire event. Let THEM, not your Scouts and Scouters, get tired of doing "all of those things that Scouts do". They will have a better appreciation for the entire program, understand that Scouts aren't limited to "hiking and camping and cooking", but rather can do just about anything, and that your Council is providing a set of programs with their partners to develop better citizens and leaders of the future.

*** Invite your various partners to set up exhibits run by Scouts (Mike Walton)**

While there's much to be said for a unit-developed booth, there are many booths that are professionally created which ***doesn't take*** a professional to run. For instance, the US Soil Conservation Service has a super static display of the water cycle which they can request, assemble and take down

just about anywhere. But it doesn't take a SCS employee to explain to visitors how the water cycle works, nor does it take a SCS employee to explain how to get a free analyzed soil content sample. A good Scout, particularly those that have earned or working on the Soil and Water Conservation Merit Badge or on the Environmental Science Merit Badge can do

the job a ***lot better*** (okay, he won't look like the marketing professional from the SCS, but this is a SCOUT SHOW).

The same goes for other exhibits by the power companies, the communications

firms, the car dealerships, the landscape companies, and the like. Even things like life and health insurance, city and county governments, police and fire protection, rescue services, just about anything that an adult can stand there and talk about at those "other fairs" and shows, a Scout can do (with some coaching and assistance from the chartered partner representative

or others). This further cements the relationship that the chartering partners have with the units, and allows the chartered partner to see up close "what they have bought" and support.

Hope all of this helps, George...it's mostly from a survey I did in 1991, but much of it still applies even to today!!

Settummanque!

**(c) 1997 Mike Walton ("no such thing as strong coffee,...") (502) 827-9201
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