

Top Tips for Cub Leaders

100+ thoughts, tips, and ideas that you can apply to your pack and den

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About the Presenter - Steve Sarver

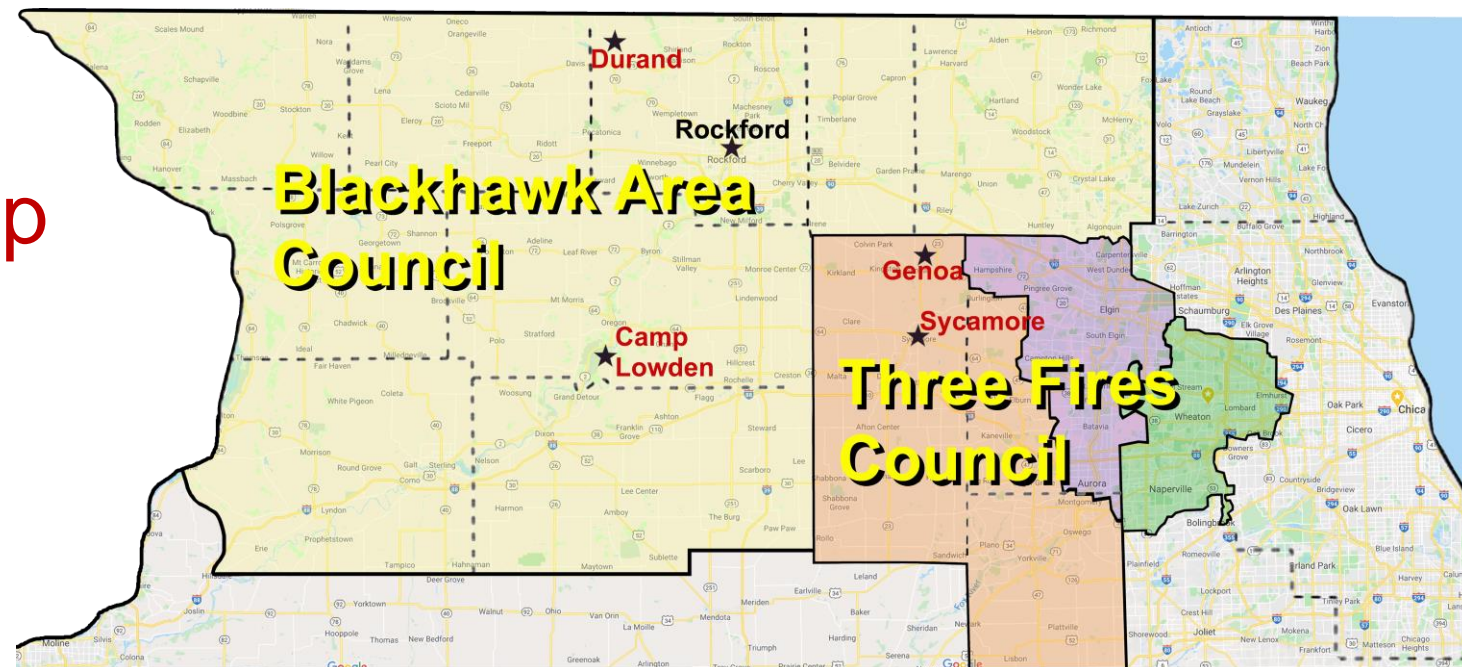
- 47 years in Scouting
- Cub Scout and Boy Scout
 - Arrow of Light
 - Eagle Scout
- Adult Leader
 - Troop Committee
 - Asst. Scoutmaster
 - Den Leader
 - Cubmaster
 - Wood Badge Staff



Steve and Cindy Sarver, 1978

About the Presenter - Steve Sarver

- Originally from Blackhawk Area Council
 - Hometown troop and pack
- Three Fires Council
 - Founded Cub Scout pack
- Camp Lowden Scout Camp
 - Historian



On My Web Site – sarverman.org

- This presentation
- Handouts – dozens of cool things to do!
 - Activities
 - Crafts
 - Games
 - 100+ ideas for meetings
- And more!

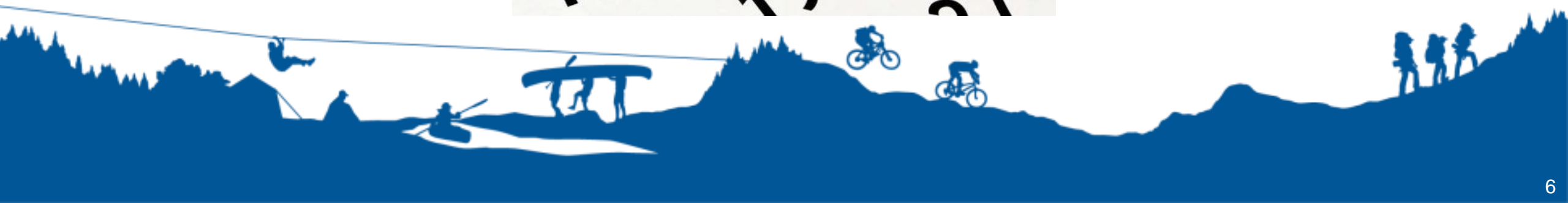


Today's Presentation

- Basic Calendar Management
- Involve Scouts
- Connect with Scouts
- Activities • Crafts • Games
- Your Experiences / Questions


































Basic Calendar Management



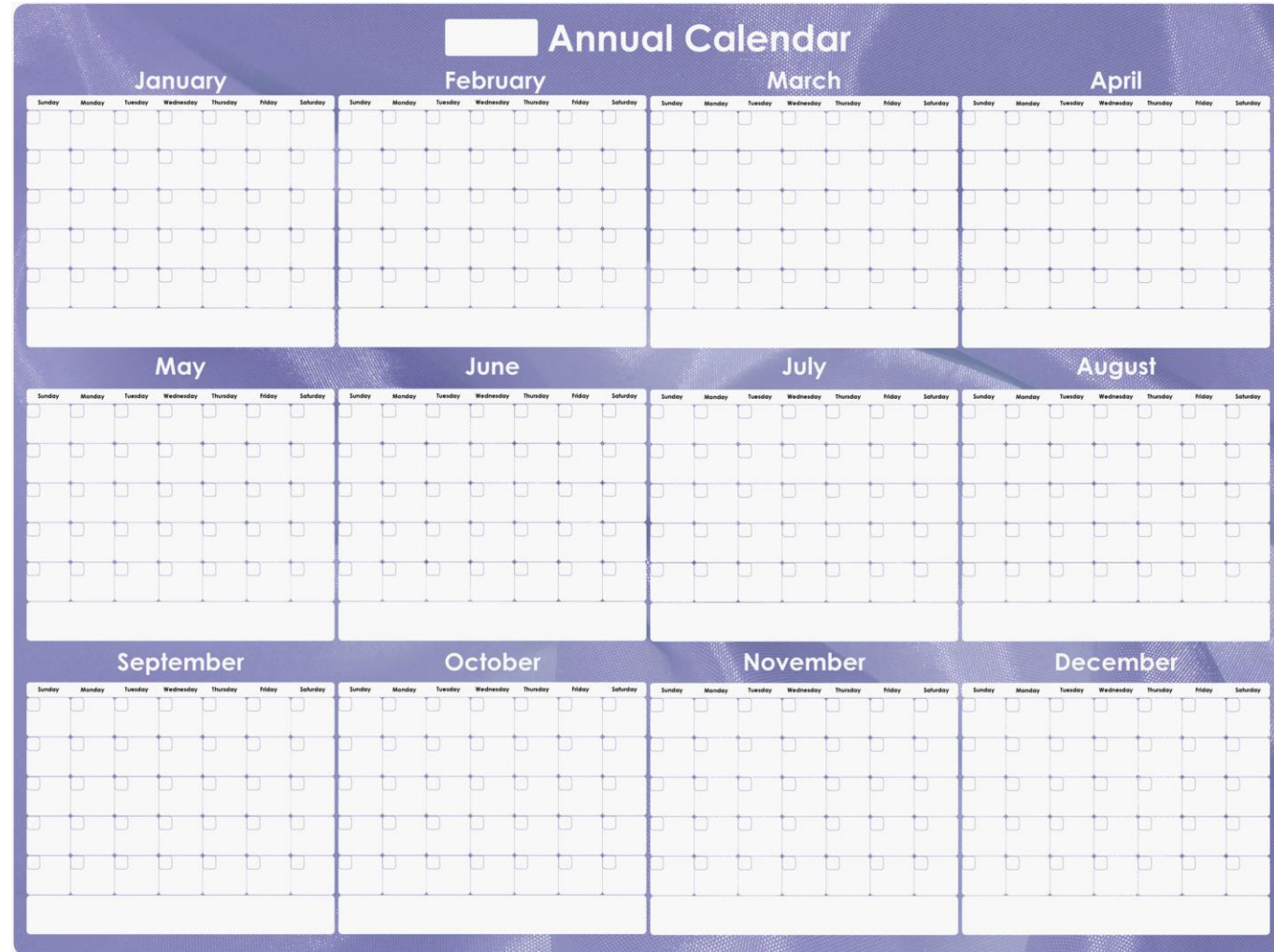
Basic Calendar Management

- Get requirements for new Scouting year ASAP
 - No later than end of May
- See what is required at your den level

 LION Kindergarten	 TIGER 1 st Grade	 WOLF 2 nd Grade	 BEAR 3 rd Grade	 WEBELOS 4 th Grade	 ARROW OF LIGHT 5 th Grade
 BOBCAT Character/Leadership	 BOBCAT Character/Leadership	 BOBCAT Character/Leadership	 BOBCAT Character/Leadership	 BOBCAT Character/Leadership	 BOBCAT Character/Leadership
 MOUNTAIN LION Outdoors	 TIGERS IN THE WILD Outdoors	 PAWS ON THE PATH Outdoors	 BEAR HABITAT Outdoors	 WEBELOS WALKABOUT Outdoors	 OUTDOOR ADVENTURER Outdoors
 FUN ON THE RUN Personal Fitness	 TIGER BITES Personal Fitness	 RUNNING WITH THE PACK Personal Fitness	 BEAR STRONG Personal Fitness	 STRONGER, FASTER, HIGHER Personal Fitness	 PERSONAL FITNESS Personal Fitness
 KING OF THE JUNGLE Citizenship	 TEAM TIGER Citizenship	 COUNCIL FIRE Citizenship	 PAWS FOR ACTION Citizenship	 MY COMMUNITY Citizenship	 CITIZENSHIP Citizenship
 LION ROAR Personal Safety	 TIGER ROAR Personal Safety	 SAFETY IN NUMBERS Personal Safety	 STANDING TALL Personal Safety	 MY SAFETY Safety/First Aid	 FIRST AID Safety/First Aid
 LION'S PRIDE Family/Reverence	 TIGER CIRCLES Family/Reverence	 FOOTSTEPS Family/Reverence	 FELLOWSHIP Family/Reverence	 MY FAMILY Family/Reverence	 DUTY TO GOD Family/Reverence
 2 Elective Adventures	 2 Elective Adventures	 2 Elective Adventures	 2 Elective Adventures	 2 Elective Adventures	 2 Elective Adventures

Basic Calendar Management

- **Monthly Schedule**
 - 2-3 den meetings / activities
 - 1 pack meeting
- **Be sure to include:**
 - Holidays
 - School functions
 - Etc.



Basic Calendar Management

- **Include Fundraisers**
 - Popcorn, etc.



- **Service Projects**
 - Scouting for Food
 - Litter pickup, etc.

Basic Calendar Management

- Make basic plan for Scouting year
 - Look at requirements for badge of rank
 - *Pencil* in on calendar

CUB SCOUT YEAR SCHEDULE

Wolf and Bear Year Schedule

Requirement year 22

A year of Weleals

Month	Theme	Activity Pin	Requirement	Ann of Weleals
January	Positive Attitude	Scoutmaster	All of them by March	
February	Resourcefulness	Scoutmaster	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 12	
March	Compassion	Geologist	1, 2, 3, 10, 12	
April	Faith	Traveler	1, 2, 3, 7	
May	Health and Fitness	Artist	1, 2, 3, 10, 12	WE # 5
June	Adventure	Fitness	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 12	
July	Courage	Overlander	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 12	WE # 6
August	Leadership	Reliever	1, 2	
September	Steadfastness	Beastling	1, 10	
October	Responsibility	Agile	1-6	
November	Generosity	Communicator	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 12	WE # 7
December	Respect	Handyman	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	WE # 4, 5, 6
		Citizen	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10	WE # 1, 1
		Naturalist	1, 2, 3	WE # 6
		Forster	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 12	WE # 7
			1, 2, 3, 7	

Basic Calendar Management

- Summers “optional?”
 - Why? “Sc-outing” is $\frac{3}{4}$ “outing!”
- Each pack should be doing *at least* three things each summer
- Dens can also meet during the summer



Basic Calendar Management

- **Earn the Summertime Fun Adventure (elective)**
 - (Formerly the National Summertime Pack award)
 - Only one requirement: participate in a total of three Cub Scout activities anytime during May through August
 - Examples include:
 - Day Camp
 - Resident Camp
 - Swim Night
 - Short Hike
 - Cleanup Project
 - 4th of July Parade



Basic Calendar Management

- **Camping**

- Day Camp
- Family Camp
- Resident Camp

- **Program your Scouts AND parents for this!**

- **“Early bird” discount fee**
 - Often in March or April



Basic Calendar Management

- **Learning is ongoing**

- What's your next Adult Leader Training course?
- The courses after that?
- Learn as much as you can to be better leader



- **Plenty of options**

- Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills
- Wood Badge
- Okpik
- Next year's Training Academy
- And more!

The School Year (First Half)



Top-heavy on badge requirements



School Year – First Half

- **September - December**
 - Do as much outside as possible!
 - Short hikes
 - Fall hike (leaves, changing colors, etc.)
 - Outdoor games
- **“Outdoor” requirements**
 - Try to get done before end of October
 - (Weather is unpredictable after October)



School Year – First Half

- **September - December**

- Work on badge requirements, but...
- “Paint the right picture” for the Scouts
 - Keep it fun!
 - Tell them *after the fact* that they have passed requirements



- **Help avoid last-minute issues**

- Stay ahead of things as much as possible
- Know which Scouts need to complete what requirements

School Year – First Half

- **By end of December**
 - Try to complete all requirements for badge
- **January – Dealing with issues**
 - Getting Scouts “caught up” if missed meetings
 - Pinewood Derby car construction
 - Preps for Blue and Gold
 - Etc.



The School Year (Second Half)



Focus begins to shift to other activities



School Year – Second Half

- **January and February**

- Pinewood Derby car construction
- Preps for Blue and Gold
- Get Scouts “caught up” if missed meetings
- Start working on electives
- Other “fun-only” type meetings



School Year – Second Half

- **April and May**

- Den meetings not always practical
 - Baseball, soccer, etc.

- **Suggestions**

- Do as much outside as possible
- Meet at park and do fun stuff
 - Own ballgame
 - Hike
 - Cookout (campfire or camp stove)



Have “Backup Activities”

- What if your plan can't happen?

- Bad weather, no-shows, etc.

- Do other things

- Play “Continue-the-Story”
- Practice folding the flag
- Basic first aid
 - Minor treatments (cuts and scrapes)
 - Show they can “Stop, Drop, and Roll”
 - Show they know how to safely roll someone else in a blanket to put out a fire



Have “Backup Activities”

- “What would you do?” scenarios
 - You found a purse or wallet with money in it.
 - Your baseball broke a window.
 - You saw a house on fire.

What would you do?
What would you do?
What would you do?

- Ask the question, then sit back and *listen* to their responses
- You are showing an interest in what *they* have to say



Involve the Scouts



Involve the Scouts

- Seek out ways to work *with* them!
- Young people like to *do* things, not just hear about them
- They are curious and want to be involved



Involve the Scouts

- “Hands-on” activities
 - Involve the Scouts as much as possible

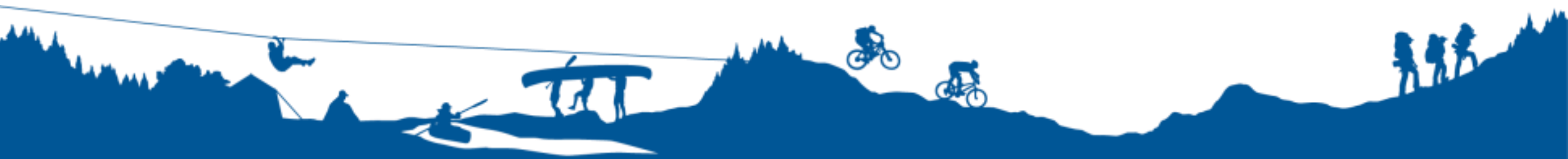


Involve the Scouts

- Add a little spice to activities
 - Litter cleanup at park followed by making mac and cheese on cook stove
 - Let Scouts help prepare (supervise them)
 - Cutting up hot dogs to put in mac and cheese
 - Stirring the food
 - Roast hot dogs or marshmallows over campfire



Connect with the Scouts



Connect with Scouts

- Get down to *their* level
- Don't talk *at* them or *over* them
- Kids have *needs*
 - Connect with them and *their* needs (not yours)



Connect with Scouts

- “Would You Rather...”
 - Random “either or” type of questions that you can ask your Scouts
- Examples:
 - “*Would you rather...*”
 - ...Be able to fly - *or* - be able to turn invisible?”
 - ...Be good at sports - *or* - be a good student?”
 - ...Be a pencil - *or* - be a rubber band?”
 - ...Have a head the size of an orange - *or* - have a head the size of a watermelon?”



Connect with Scouts

- “Would You Rather...”
 - It is important to emphasize that there are no “*right*” or “*wrong*” answers
 - The purpose is to get the Scouts to explain *why* they chose one or the other
 - It makes absolutely *no* difference whatsoever what they choose



One Important Thing



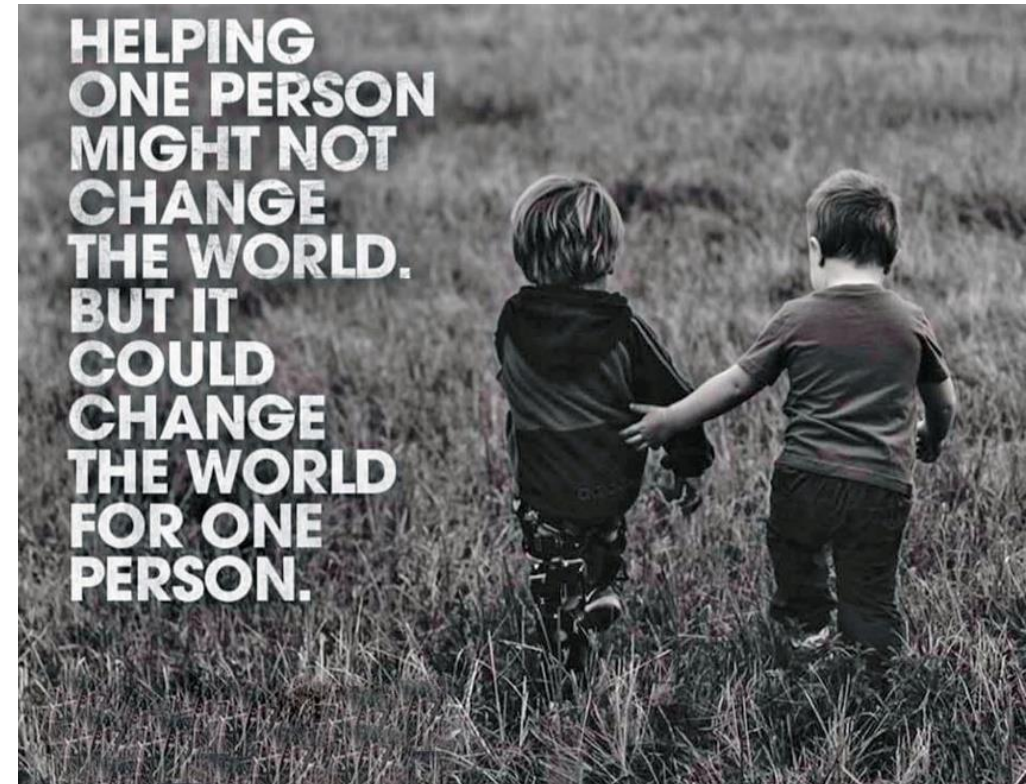
(often overlooked)



One Important Thing

- **Scout's Personal Life**

- What things could be happening outside of Scouting that are not healthy?
- Sometimes, Scouting may be the *only* positive thing a Scout has
- Keep an eye out
- Be sure to properly report
 - As per the Youth Protection policies of Scouting America



Activities • Crafts • Games!

Try to have at least one at each meeting

More examples at sarverman.org



Activities • Crafts • Games!

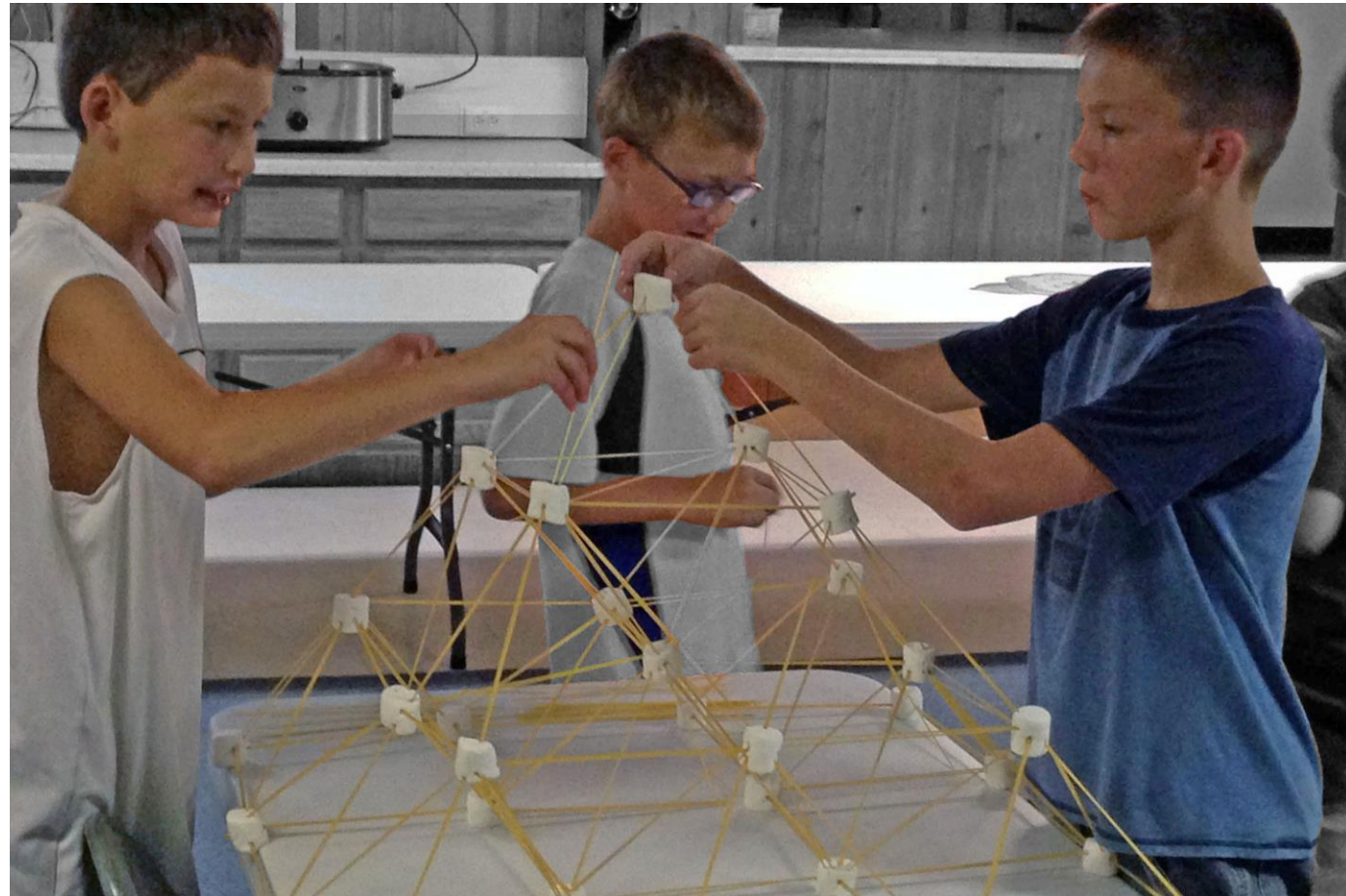
- Don't let parents congregate in corner and be on phones!
 - Have Scouts with Parent partners games
 - Quality time with family members
 - Have Scouts versus Parents games
 - Who can do something better?



Activities • Crafts • Games!

- **Spaghetti Pyramids**

- Also try regular-size marshmallows and toothpicks
- Could also use Play-Doh to avoid wasting food



Activities • Crafts • Games!

• Ice Cream Fun!

- One person lies on ground with ice cream cone in mouth
- Person above tries to fill up cone by dropping mini marshmallows into cone
- Have parents lie on ground!
- Great summertime fun!



Activities • Crafts • Games!

- **Pie in the face!**
 - Excellent incentive for popcorn sales

[Use shaving cream, *not* whipped cream!]



Activities • Crafts • Games!

- **Ambulance Pack Night**

- Visit to Fire Station, but with focus on:
 - Ambulance
 - EMTs / Paramedics
 - Blood pressure cuffs
 - Vacuum splints
 - Immobilize Scout on backboard



Activities • Crafts • Games!



- Police officer comes and talks about public safety, etc.
- But the *real* “draw” for the Scouts is...



“Do you want to see my cop car?”

Activities • Crafts • Games!



Visit the dentist



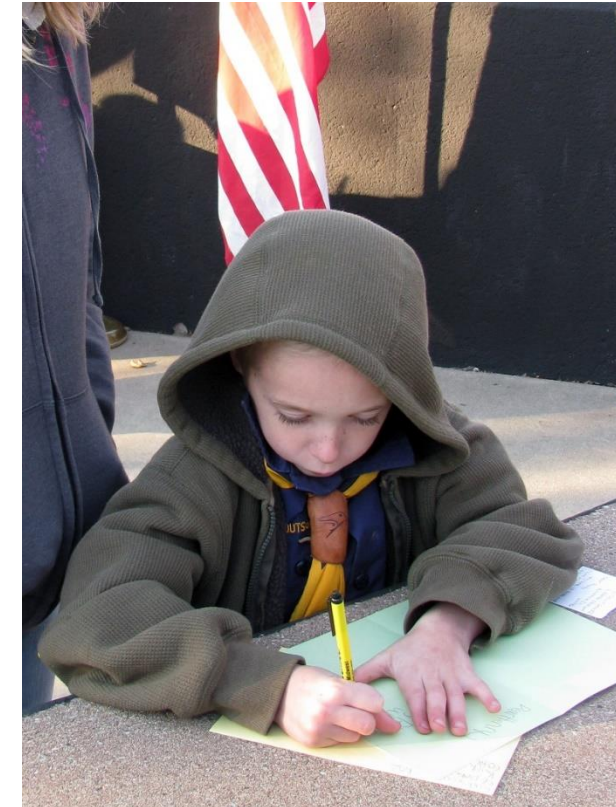
Activities • Crafts • Games!

- **Disabilities Awareness**
 - Lots of options



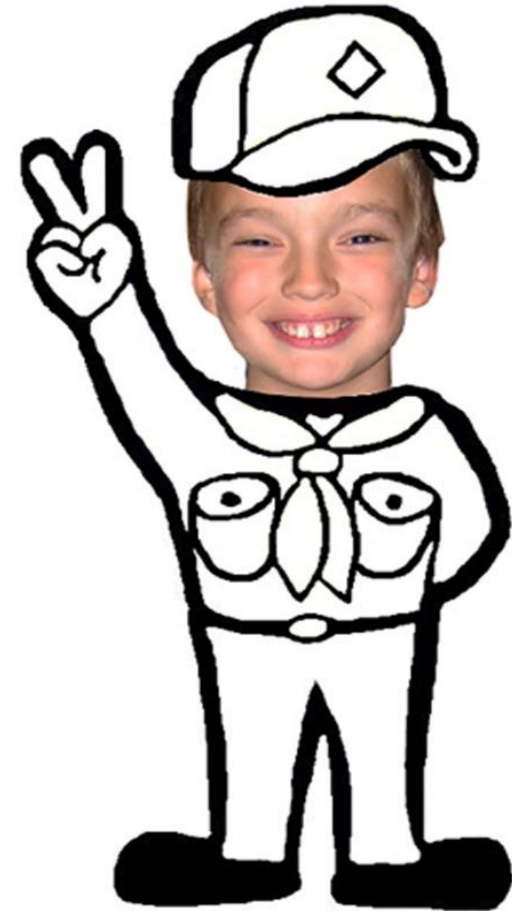
Activities • Crafts • Games!

- **Veterans Memorial / Thank-You Notes to Veterans**
 - Gave each Scout 1-2 names, had them find on memorial
 - Had Scouts write (or draw) nice “thank you for serving our country” card and mailed them
 - Explained how to address envelope and Scouts did so in own handwriting
 - Response was incredible



Activities • Crafts • Games!

- Take photo of each Scout
- Next meeting, each Scout:
 - Cuts out and glues onto template
 - Colors the rest
- Can be done with other templates
 - e.g., super-heroes
- Excellent “pre-opening” activity



Activities • Crafts • Games!

• Ghostly Lanterns

- Gather enough empty milk jugs
 - Be sure to wash them out!
 - Scouts draw faces with marker
 - Fill with water
 - Drop in glow stick
 - Reusable
-
- Also try different colored glow sticks



Activities • Crafts • Games!

• Balloon Support

- Scouts guess # balloons needed to support Scout
- Scout lies on balloons, others remove one at a time
- Scouts work together to figure out what balloons to remove so Scout does not touch floor



Activities • Crafts • Games!

• Dice Stacking

- Scout bites on tongue depressor / craft stick
- Who can stack most dice before it falls over?
- Have parents try...can they do better?



Activities • Crafts • Games!

• Ice Cube Relay!

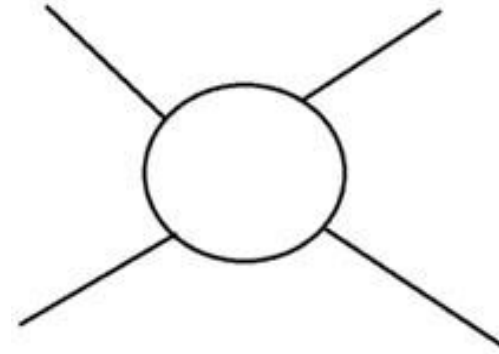
- Form two teams
- Use spatula to move ice from one container to second container on other side of room
- Scouts must pick up ice cube with spatula and run to other container and deposit ice cube
- First team to have all ice in opposite container wins



Activities • Crafts • Games!

• Cup Challenge

- Fun game, involves teamwork
- Tie string to rubber band
- Have Scouts work together to stack cups into various structures



Activities • Crafts • Games!

- **Cheese Puff Toss**
 - Divide Scouts into two groups
 - Person from each group sits in a chair
 - Tape off line ~3 feet away
 - Put hats, covered with shaving cream, on person's head
 - Throw cheese puffs at them to see how many would stick
 - Team with most cheese puffs stuck to hat is winner





Water balloon toss –
fun for ALL ages!

Activities • Crafts • Games!

- Sometimes the simple approach works best



Ziploc Fudge!

- **Scouts can:**
 - Put ingredients into bag
 - Take turns “smushing” ingredients
 - Have a great snack!
- **Can be done on outings**
- **Those who cannot have chocolate?**
 - Have other options on hand



<i>Ingredients</i>	<i>Directions</i>
½ stick butter	Combine all ingredients in Ziploc bag. Do not allow throwing; carefully hand from person to person to smush ingredients thoroughly. Cut open corner of bag and squeeze into individual portions onto wax paper. 30 pieces.
½ C. unsweetened cocoa	
1 lb. powdered sugar	
3 oz. cream cheese	
1 tsp. vanilla	
1 gallon size freezer Ziploc bag	

Your Experiences / Questions

Thanks for coming!
Enjoy the rest of your day!

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