

the leader

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS



Peace...on Earth?

by John Pettifer

I imagine a large room filled with over 200 people from more than 130 countries. Black and white, Jew and Gentile, Christian and Muslim are all seated together sharing a feeling of peace and comradeship. They have put aside all faiths and all social differences.

Impossible?

Not at all. It actually happened this year in Holland, when representatives of each of the countries attending the World Jamboree met to say "thank you" to our Dutch hosts. The room was a reflection of the week when over 25,000 young people from around the world met, worked, talked and played together in peace and harmony.

At this time of the year, as the old year wanes and we face a new one, the thought of peace and goodwill are themes we turn to willingly and with great sensitivity.

Baden-Powell sometimes referred to Scouting as "the greatest Peace Movement on Earth." The Jamboree certainly reflected his words. When he opened the International Congress at Kandersteg, Switzerland in 1926 our founder said, "Peace cannot be secured... unless the spirit for peace is there in the minds and will of the peoples."

We may share different spiritual paths, yet surely peace within ourselves and with each other is a goal that we all share and for which we must all strive. At Kandersteg, B.-P. went on to add that developing that spirit of peace is "a matter of education."

Sadly, the world has not been "at peace." Even today "wars and rumours of wars" abound — some highly visible, others in remote, unseen areas of the globe. Many nations continue to believe that armed conflict is the only way to settle disputes. We are still far from

Baden-Powell once referred to Scouting as "the greatest Peace Movement on Earth."

the vision found in Isaiah (Ch. 2, v. 4) where, speaking of a future time on earth, the prophet gives hope saying,

"They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation shall not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore."

At this time of the year, whether you celebrate the birth of Christ (who came to bring peace to men and reconciliation with God), Hanukkah

(which celebrates "the rededication of the ancient Temple in Jerusalem after its desecration by those opposed to religious freedom", and thus a form of peace), or if your faith has no special observance, let us all join together in a wish for peace and goodwill.

At an appropriate section meeting towards the end of the year, light a special candle for peace. Share a prayer with young people asking that our world may find harmony. Pick up B.-P.'s challenge that we continue to work for these ideals "as a matter of education."

I will light a candle in my office. Please join me.

From all of us at the National Office, to you, your families and the youth you serve, may God's blessing be yours, and may peace on earth fill your thoughts through the festive season.



John Pettifer
Chief Executive



Scouting Is... PHOTO CONTEST **Extended!**

We've extended the deadline for our "Scouting Is" photo contest to January 31, 1996. This will allow time for more people to send in their best Scouting pictures.

Supply Services is offering over 80 prizes including a tent, backpack, sleeping bag, fanny packs, Swiss Army knives and baseball caps. See **the Leader's** October issue (p.18) for details and get snappin'!

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Reach your full potential

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FIRST AID TRAINING



It's never too

early to start

by Russ Thom

Active children skin their knees, burn hands and cut their fingers. Winter brings its own risks with frost-bite, wind chill, hypothermia. Few Scouting programs are as practical as first aid training.

Last year 1st Sudbury Venturers, ON, decided to combine a very popular outdoor winter camp with a first aid skills tune-up. Because most Venturers held Standard First Aid and CPR certificates, as well as Royal Life Saving Society Awards, the weekend demanded some creative planning to keep it engaging. Our program surpassed almost everyone's expectations.

Anne Matte, a certified wilderness first aid trainer, started by reviewing basics for 90 minutes. Topics covered included rescue breathing, assessing victims, fractures, CPR, bleeding and shock identification. Then they discussed how to meet these challenges under wilderness conditions away from phones and ambulances.

"Okay. That's all pretty routine," you say?

Next Anne took the Venturers outside where each faced 'real life' emergency scenarios complete with annoyed bystanders (advisors), uncooperative, screaming victims, and vividly coloured wounds. Not all problems involved immediately obvious casualties.

Victims were treated by two or three rescuers while bystanders interfered as much as possible. Of course some Venturers made mistakes, but what better way to learn than in a staged, controlled setting?

After running through a series of emergencies, the group evaluated their performance and discussed other first aid alternatives. Then they began another sequence of emergencies.

What About Younger Members?

Why not plan a similar camp for younger members? Use it as a linking event by asking trained Venturers and Rovers to help out. Prepare for the camp by teaching basic first aid skills inside, then go outside to practise.

A good place to start is with cuts, burns, sprains and frost-bite. Active

kids encounter these almost every week. Look for opportunities in your normal Scouting program to tie in a first aid theme. Are you planning a fire safety night? Spend time discussing burns.

Ask Beavers and Cubs what they would like to know about first aid. Spark their interest by touching on subjects that concern them directly. Perhaps one child has just been bitten by a wasp. Another burned her fingers on a pot, another got a sliver.

We introduced our first aid theme by simulating a non-frightening emergency during a basketball game at an evening meeting. (If you try this, don't make the simulation too scary or unexpected.)

With this emergency situation fresh in the Cubs' minds, leaders taught basic first aid over the next several weeks. Slowly building up their skills, the youth soon felt a growing confidence in their new knowledge and abilities. The basketball 'accident' served as a constant reminder that an emergency can happen unexpectedly.

Our final meeting night involved testing. We set up a number of multiple

choice questions and several simple emergency scenarios. Senior Cubs who had already earned the First Aider Badge served as victims. (At the troop level, follow a similar organization strategy but train and test to guarantee higher competency.)

Tie your theme into side trips to fire halls, police traffic offices and ambulance stations. A ski patrol member might agree to show rescue videos, demonstrate bandaging and share personal experiences.

"But I'm Not Qualified"

St. John Ambulance offers excellent courses for senior Scouts, Venturers and Rovers. Many other instructors are available to help out, including experienced Scouters. Our leadership team was unfamiliar with rescue breathing, so we contacted the Red Cross. They sent someone to demonstrate the procedure.

Each year ambulance volunteers visit the 1st Boissevain Cubs and Beavers to teach emergency first aid. "Our kids just love the program," says Scouter Sharron Fikkert. Part of the training entails CPR. After instructors explain how to stop bleeding and demonstrate various first aid techniques, each child practises under the watchful eyes of the leaders. Hands-on exercises are always popular.

Before testing begins a make-up artist, Norm Smith, paints realistic gashes and bruises on fascinated victims. (Perhaps you have a parent with similar talents?) Graphic wounds spark everyone's interest and renew flagging attention. Beavers naturally add appropriate sound effects. This is an easy way to introduce a non-threatening sense of realism into your theme program. Just don't make the wounds look too gruesome.

FIRST AIDERS TO THE RESCUE!

by *Charlie Case*

Last February our troop held a weekend first aid camp. Little did we know how soon our group would be applying the training in a real-life emergency.

Held at a Scout camp that we shared with some Cubs, the first aid course covered all requirements for the First Aid Badge (silver stage). A St. John Ambulance instructor guided us through the course which included rescue breathing and CPR. We learned how to control bleeding, identify signs of shock and splint a broken leg.

By Sunday several Scouts decided to go skiing and snowshoeing with the Cub pack. Suddenly a cry went up: "We need help!"

Brian Guillemette (a Cub leader) had tripped on his snowshoe and

tumbled into a tree. His left hand was cut deeply. Worse still, he had broken his right leg. Our first aid Scouts and instructor reached the accident scene quickly. After assessing the situation, they stopped the bleeding and immobilized Brian's hand using a snowshoe.

They splinted the leg with readily available objects including several boards, a belt, triangular bandages and neckers. The Cubs helped out by running messages.

It's great to know first aid. Emergencies can occur when you least expect them.

— *Charlie Case lives in Grande Cache, Alberta.*

Burns are common during winter camps and around the home. Show your group how to ease the pain and speed healing. Make up a question and answer quiz. Include puzzlers like: Should you put butter on a burn? Why shouldn't you put snow or ice on a burn?

Tie your first aid theme into a wider framework. Get youth to inspect their homes for dangerous situations or conditions: oily rags in a basement, toxic chemicals within easy reach of children, poisons stored in pop bottles. What better place to teach cold weather first aid than at a winter camp? If someone gets a touch of frostbite, use the opportunity to discuss treatment.

Young people trained in first aid have an opportunity to perform valu-

able community service. Give them the chance to grow.

— *Russ Thom is a trainer and advisor with the 1st Sudbury Venturers, ON.*

Program Links

Cubs: Family Safety Badge, First Aider Badge
Scouts: First Aid Badge, Winter Camping Badge
Venturers: Queen's Venturer Award, Outdoorsman Award

Resources

- Canadian Red Cross Society, 1800 Alta Vista Dr., Ottawa, ON, K1G 4J5. Phone: (613) 739-2542; fax: 731-1411.
- St. John Ambulance Society. Contact your local chapter.

FIRST AID TRAINING IDEAS

by *Jennifer Totten*

First aid doesn't have to be tedious or difficult for Cubs and Scouts. Think up creative ways to present your material. After they've learned the basics, use relay races, games and simulated emergencies to add sparkle and excitement. Here are a few popular activities with our youth.

Start at the Beginning

Lay a good foundation by teaching very practical first aid that active children might encounter any day. With Cubs, keep your first aid training simple as possible. Show them how to apply direct pressure on bleeding wounds; tell them when to elevate an arm or leg, and why. Teach youth not to panic. Emphasize preventative measures, so they can avoid unnecessary injuries.

Demonstrate specific skills they need to master, such as how to tie a sling with a reef knot. Show Cubs and Scouts how to use their neckerchiefs to improvise a sling. Next, get them practising on one another. Let them demonstrate their results to other sixes or patrols.

Describe a Scenario

Realistic scenarios capture youthful imaginations and help the learning pro-

cess. Try spinning a story like this: "We are out on a day hike picking our way down a narrow path when suddenly Jason trips on a root. He drops to the ground and screams out in pain. After examining him we find out Jason has twisted his ankle."

Then describe how to respond to the emergency. Ask your Cubs and Scouts what they need to do first. After they have practised responding to this problem, demonstrate different rescue carries. Emphasize how to do each one safely, then let older Cubs and Scouts run a rescue relay race.

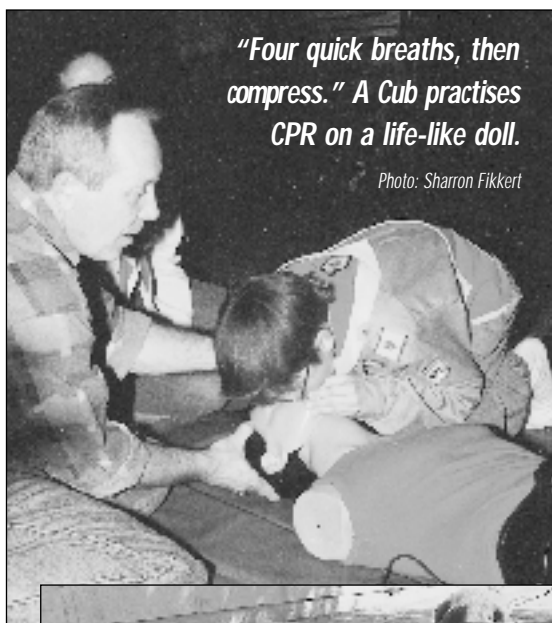
Rescue Relay

A six or patrol must move its members from one end of the gym then back using a different carry each time. As they transport their friends get them to describe their carrying method and the circumstances under which each would be used. Try the two-handed carry, the four-handed carry, the piggy-back carry, the fireman's lift, the chair carry, the human crutch and the drag carry. (Some may be too difficult for young Cubs.) A standard first aid manual will show proper techniques and describe when to use each.

Emergency Stretchers

Divide your first aiders into teams to make improvised stretchers with material close at hand. Let them experiment with jackets for the support between two flag poles (sturdy ones only!). Trial and error will teach them how to build a strong stretcher. At camp Cubs and Scouts can use sleeping bags, blankets, tarps over staves, even a ladder.

When each team has made a safe improvised stretcher, get them to manoeuvre through an obstacle course carrying an 'injured' friend on the stretcher. Award extra points to teams that properly care for their casualty. If a team drops a Scout with a 'broken' leg, it must return to the starting point or lose five points. In a camp setting, make the course run through trees and up and down terrain, so they learn how to move a stretcher in more realistic conditions than just a flat, open gym.



First aid training can fit into almost any outing: camping treks, bird watching trips or hikes.

Role-playing

Ask someone in your group to role-play an injury that they might encounter during an outing. Examples might include a severely bleeding nose, burns from a stove or campfire, a broken arm, a bad sunburn or unexpected allergic reactions. Monitor the response of your group, then discuss what they did. Provide suggestions how they could improve their future performance.

Draw red 'cuts' on their arms, then ask others to bandage these wounds. This activity might fit in well with a play-acting night, or theatre make-up practice.

Question/Answer Quiz

After your Scouts know their first aid well, challenge each patrol to make up a quiz with ten questions. The example below stresses the over-riding importance of common sense.

Which of the following is required for first aid?

- a fully stocked first aid kit
- a first aid certificate

- a completed medical form
- common sense.

First aid is 99% common sense. Stress to everyone that their aim is to get the victim to medical aid in the same, if not better, condition that they found them.

Idea Potpourri

Plan to run an emergency drill. Check to see how many Cubs, Scouts and leaders know where the first aid kits are kept.

Organize a Kim's game with the contents of your first aid kit. You might have to explain what use the various objects serve. Think how you can make this competitive. Perhaps the youth have ideas. Taking turns each member of a six could pretend to be an item in the first aid kit. Through mime, the rest of the six must guess what the object is. Blindfold Cubs and get them to identify items in the first aid kit by touch.

If you have to deal with a real first aid situation at camp or your weekly meeting, don't hesitate to let Cubs watch. Once you have properly cared for the injured youth, discuss what you did and why with other members. Use the opportunity to reinforce their first aid knowledge.

Like any other skill, you have to practise first aid to improve it. By turning it into a game, you not only make learning fun but also speed the entire process.

Scouting programs offer countless opportunities to discuss first aid. On a camping trip, talk about how to treat wasp stings and heat stroke. On a weekend hiking trek, discuss what to do for sun protection and blisters. A canoe trip offers great opportunities to practise artificial respiration. Ask yourself: How can I tie this theme into our winter survival camp, home safety program, bike rodeo or knot tying evening? You'll soon find your Cubs and Scouts are very proficient first aiders. X

— Jennifer Totten is a trainer with the 23rd Nepean "A" Troop, ON.

High Bluff's Fishing Derby

A great family-oriented linking event

by Tracy Maloney-Bullock

It was a beautiful, sunny day when the 1st High Bluff Beavers and Cubs, MB, lowered their ice fishing rigs into Lake Manitoba. Anticipation ran high. This was our first-ever family fishing derby. After having postponed it once due to extremely low temperatures, everyone welcomed the warm sunshine.

Our derby culminated several months of preparation and planning. We didn't just want another joint, linking event where Beavers and Cubs could enjoy the outdoors and perhaps make friends in the next older Scouting section. This one had to involve the entire family in an unusual, memory-building outdoor activity.

First we chose a place to hold the derby. As High Bluff is only fifteen minutes from Lake Manitoba, that decision was easy. Next we picked *two* dates — sometimes it's best to expect bad weather. Then we obtained a derby licence from the Department of Natural Resources, and sent out invitations to our Scouting family. The letters included an invitation to friends and neighbours, so they too could try out our fun Scouting program.

Preparing the Cubs

Several weeks before the derby, we held a winter camp. Starting with a video on ice fishing, leaders introduced



Each year 6th Oshawa Cubs and Scouts, ON, look forward to their ice fishing derby. Here Akela Debbie Lediard puts bait on Michael Hammond's line.

Photo: Vonnie Wilson

our excited youth to the sport. A local general store provided fishing booklets. (Leaders could use these to make up an excellent question and answer quiz.) Next, we learned about various fish species in Lake Manitoba, how they live, what they eat and how pollution affects their lives.

Perhaps you could ask a local fish conservation officer to discuss various catch and release methods. He could show how to handle fish gently to cause the least amount of stress and physical damage to them. This will increase their chances of survival after release.

Some points to stress include,

- handle a fish only with a wet wool mitt
- never grab a fish by its eyes or gills

- never squeeze its belly
- measure, record and release the fish as soon as possible after catching it.

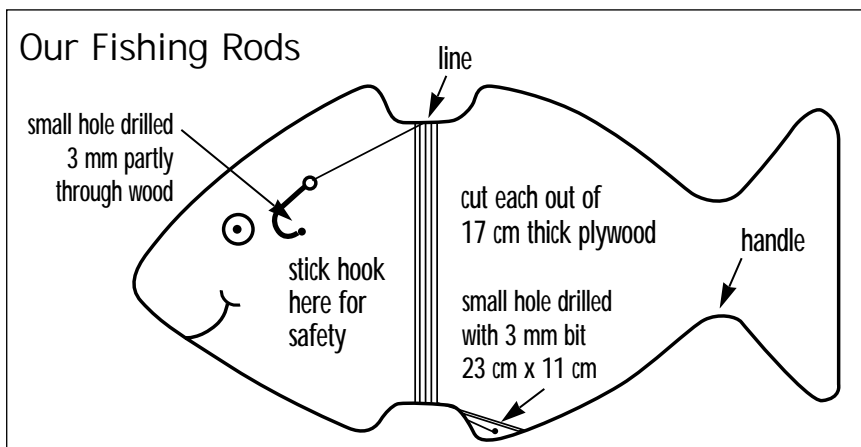
After coaching Cubs on the use of barbless hooks, each child built a hand-held rod shaped like a fish. (See diagram). The tail formed the handle. Local Beavers built their rods at a meeting prior to the derby.

Use this camp to teach ice rescues, hypothermia and cold-weather dressing. You might even try learning more about water quality and responsible resource management.

On derby day parents, friends and neighbours drilled holes in the ice, supervised each child and prepared lunch. Local businesses donated prizes, while a fishing tackle company provided line and bait.

Besides enjoying a terrific family day of fun and fresh air, Cubs completed requirements for their Fishing Badge. Hey, perhaps we should make this an annual event! ^

— Tracy Maloney-Bullock is Akela of the 1st High Bluff Pack, MB.



Program Links

Cubs: Fishing Badge,
Scouts: Winter Scouting Badge,
Conservation Badge

"Who Needs A Special Needs Theme? We do!"

by Georgia Ho

I can't wait! Tonight Steve Hamilton and his seeing eye dog are going to visit our pack. What do I expect? I'm not sure. Hours later, here's what we experienced.

At 7:00 p.m. Steve walked into our meeting, helped by his guide dog, a beautiful golden retriever. Our 2nd Milliken Mills Cubs from Markham, ON, had been looking forward to his visit for weeks. Many parents also came to meet our special guest and find out more about blindness.

"What a big dog," said several wide-eyed Cubs backing away.

"He's big, but friendly," Steve replied quickly.

With introductions over we played several games to help the Cubs under-

stand Steve's life a little better. Our neckerchiefs came in handy for a blindfold game that called for walking in a straight line. Some Cubs found this easy (they could see through their neckers) until Akela turned off the lights.

If parents expected to just watch from the sidelines they were in for a surprise. Everyone had to join in the fun. One father obviously played rarely with his eight year old son. Though awkward and embarrassed at first, the father soon joined in the fun completely. His son basked in his dad's attention. Now this is what Scouting is all about!

Questions and Answers

After this game a Cub asked how Steve had lost his sight. Steve explained it happened when he got scarlet fever as a young boy. More arms shot up all over as youthful minds buzzed with very practical questions.

Q: "How do you get food from the fridge?"

A: "When I put the food away I memorize where I put it."

Q: "Tell us how you sort out your socks on laundry day."

A: "I clip them together before dropping them into my washing machine. Most of my socks are the same colour, except those given to me as a present!"

Q: "How do you match the colour of your clothes?"

A: "I wear dark clothes; they seldom clash."

Q: "Is your dog by your side always?"

A: "Yes, especially when I go out. At home he stays with me too, but when I take off his collar, he knows he's not on duty. Then he plays."

More Program Ideas

"KINDNESS IS A LANGUAGE WHICH THE DEAF MAN CAN HEAR AND THE BLIND MAN READ."

— Mark Twain

Do you have hearing- or seeing-impaired children in your area wanting to join Scouting? Perhaps they have other physical or mental difficulties. Before immersing them in your colony, pack or troop, prepare young members with a theme program like the one enjoyed by the 2nd Milliken Mills Pack. It will banish many pre-conceived notions and prejudices. Rather than being seen as a burden, the new child might find himself fitting in with ease.

These games will help children in your section understand the physical limitations others live with every day.



Photo: Allen Macatney

Wheelchair basketball (or relay)

Borrow some wheelchairs from the local Red Cross or hospital. Organize a basketball game for your Scouts. Players must not leave the chair to pick up the ball. Designate a team helper for this task.

Cubs might prefer a wheelchair relay race. Let them pass a necker during the race. If they drop the necker either they must find a way to retrieve it off the floor (without standing) or they must ask someone's help.

That's Amazing!

Cubs might think it impossible to identify the value of a coin just by listening to the sound, but Steve showed us how sight-impaired people do it. The sound of dropping coins filled the next several minutes as Cubs tested Steve's ears. Paper money demands a slightly different strategy. He showed how blind people fold the corner of paper money in different ways so they can tell its value very quickly. Amazing, but then he showed how he could feel a bill to 'read' its worth. Test your Cubs. Can they tell a \$2 bill from a \$5 bill?

Most sight-impaired people are keen listeners; they hear things that people with regular vision never notice. Steve demonstrated his abilities by sitting on a chair with keys lying in front of him. Cubs took turns sneaking quietly up and trying to take the key from him. Few succeeded.

Next we learned about Steve's guide dog. Of course we asked for a demonstration. Using pylons, chairs, winter jackets — anything available in the gym — we built a pretty challenging indoor obstacle course. "Let's see him beat this," someone whispered. Within seconds Steve's dog had manoeuvred through it. At every little stop or turn the golden retriever indicated which

way his master should step. A loud applause broke out spontaneously.

We couldn't let our guests go without pictures. All the Cubs jostled for a seat near the dog; no one feared him now. After a loud "Home Alone" cheer of thanks and a gift, the duo left as pleased as we were.

You're Welcome

Most sections look for opportunities to invite young friends to experience their great Scouting program. This event is perfect. You might try asking a wheelchair athlete to visit. Find out if any deaf people in your area own *hearing ear dogs*. Related games to keep excitement high might include lip reading to pass secret code, charades or role playing.

Exposing Cubs to those with special needs in the community will broaden their youthful horizons. It might even lead to physically or mentally challenged kids wanting to join your group.

Let's not keep a good Scouting program to ourselves. Children with special needs might bring a new dimension to your program. X

— Georgia Ho is Akela for 2nd Milliken Mills Pack, Markham, ON.

EXPERT ADVICE

Venturer advisor Mary MacLaurin, an experienced leader working with special needs youth, offers this advice.

- Get to know the child before the first night.
- Leaders shouldn't assume anything. They must know exactly what physical or mental challenges face the child; they also must know exactly what to do.
- Adapt games and tasks to suit the special child's needs. This might be easier than you think.
- Other kids pick up on the tone of the leader. Make sure yours is helpful.
- Train several leaders to work with the child so if one leader is sick the child still receives appropriate care.
- Know when you're in over your head and need help.

Program Links

Cubs: Interpreter Badge,
Green Star (code)
Scouts: Citizen Badge,
Chief Scout's Award



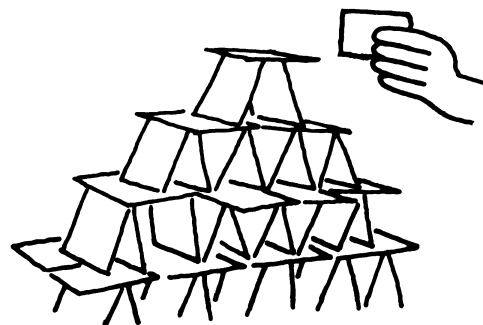
Photo: Georgia Ho

Listen Carefully

Divide into groups of two; one wears a blindfold. Line up blindfolded Cubs and Scouts at a starting point with a table standing 15 metres in front of them. Their teammates must stand behind the table yelling instructions. Unmasked teammates must shout only two words: "Left" or "Right!" Their blindfolded friends must identify the correct voice and then follow it to the table. Chaos!

Crutch Soccer

Play this game with standard rules except everyone must use crutches and walk on only *one* leg. Penalize those who hit the ball with a crutch.



Balancing Act

Many people suffer from coordination problems. Help your Cubs and Scouts appreciate their health by asking them to build a tower made from playing cards. Break Cubs into sixes and Scouts into patrols and see how elaborate they can make their creations. This game involves concentration and a steady hand. Watch out for earthquakes!

Operation Santa

Experience the True Spirit of Christmas

by Lynn Johnson

In the classic story, "A Christmas Carol", Charles Dickens not only showed how Christmas can change even the worst of us, but he drew attention to the difficult life many people experienced.

The horrible spectre of widespread want did not disappear with the Victorian era. Canada's social safety net has helped the problem, but not completely removed the pain some children feel.

Among the many programs designed to provide happiness and comfort at Christmas is the Toronto Star Santa Claus Fund. This fund has been operating for almost 90 years. Readers of the newspaper send in donations, which are then used to purchase and package gifts for pre-teen children. For the past three years, Scouts in Toronto's west end have helped distribute the gifts. Last year, Scouts in Greater Toronto Region became Santa's helpers to cover a wider area.

A brightly decorated box, scaled to the child's age and gender, holds each gift. A present for a twelve year old boy might contain an attractive shirt, a toque, warm gloves, a bag of candy and a small transistor radio (complete with batteries). Boxes for younger children might contain several books, games, a shirt, mitts, a hat, candy and socks.

Each box is labelled with the child's name and bound in family sets for easy delivery. More than 3,900 boxes were stacked at the depot where our youth worked — only one of several. Great piles of boxes formed walls. Looking at the gifts, you wouldn't have believed that all could be delivered by volunteers. A typical delivery team consisted of a driver and two or three others. Older youth worked in pairs.

Last year I helped Santa for the first time. After several days I hardly knew whether the experience was wonderful or dreadful. That these gifts (carefully chosen though they were), represented an entire Christmas to so many children frustrated and saddened me. That we needed to actually guard the boxes in the car from theft angered me.

"How Can I Thank You?!"

Many deliveries were simply routine; others I will remember for years. Several children saw the boxes through a window and came running, yelling,



*"Look at us!
We're Santa's helpers."*

"The Santa boxes!!" Small faces glowed with excitement and happiness. Two young mothers received the parcels with tears. Several women came out into the cold in nightgowns or bare feet to thank me fervently.

Back at the depot, we shared our experiences. One Scout handed a parcel to a man who was obviously very much moved. In broken English the man explained that he had only been in Canada for three weeks. It meant a lot to him that Canadians would give gifts for his children.

A Venturer in full uniform handed the family boxes to a very young child who looked at him with wide eyes. "These are from Santa, aren't they?!" he asked.

"Ah... yes," answered the Venturer. "Are you one of his elves?"

"Sure, I guess so."

"Say 'Hi' to Santa and the reindeers for me!" the enraptured youngster called after him.

Robbie Engel, our own Scouting "Santa-in-charge", spent exhausting weeks organizing the deliveries. He lost sleep, missed an important family birthday and searched continually for more Scouting volunteers and drivers. He even pacified an angry resident when Santa's busy helpers slowed down apartment elevators. "Have a merry Christmas," Robbie said in a pleasant voice to the disgruntled man.

As our deadlines approached all of us were frantically counting parcels and calling for extra help. Our Scouting teams finished delivering gifts on Christmas Eve. In spite of the rush, most volunteers were making plans for this year's delivery.

What did we achieve? We didn't wipe out poverty or permanently improve the lives of any children. But the effort did give a happy Christmas to thousands. We showed that people really cared for them.

Operation Santa gave us something too. All of us gained real insight into the problems others face. The program gave a chance for meaningful service. It broadened our social awareness horizons. We tasted the true spirit of Christmas.

Is there a similar holiday gift program in your community? Get your Scouting youth involved. Not only will it make them more aware of their community needs, but they will be more grateful for the plenty they enjoy each day. X

— Lynn Johnson is Deputy Regional Commissioner, Greater Toronto Region, Ontario.

Program Links

Cubs: Purple Star

Scouts: Citizen Badge.

Lash Down Your Toboggan Like a Pro

by Greybeard

Our troop, the 1st Thorsby Scouts, AB, used to struggle when lashing gear onto a toboggan during winter camps. Knots and ropes would soon loosen, causing troop tents, sleeping bags and stoves to slide off into the snow along the trail. That's history now.

For the first time in print we are revealing our fail-proof lashing method. It took several years to refine to its present level of excellence. Never again will an equipment-strewn path trace the route of our (or your) skiers.

With practice Scouts can produce a snug lashing with many advantages:

- it holds a load securely
- it's both snow- and rain-proof
- it won't catch on obstructions along a narrow trail
- it holds together even when the toboggan tips.

Okay, so dragging a loaded toboggan through deep snow is *never* easy, but a load lashed our way will slide more easily than any other method.

The Simple A-B-Cs

Before starting, get a toboggan (2 m long with a rope hand-hold around its

perimeter), a small tarpaulin and 2 ropes for lashing (each 15 m x 6 mm). Then follow these steps.

1. Find the centre of your rope. Make a loop. Slip about 30 cm of the loop under your toboggan's centre back hand-hold rope.

2. Lead the ends of the rope forward along each side of the toboggan taking care not to pull out the centre loop.

3. Feed a 30 cm loop under each section of the toboggan's side rope hand-holds. Adjust them to make equal lengths. These loops will form the bottom half of the lashing.

4. Tie the two ends of the long rope off at the front of the toboggan. (We tie ours to the threaded eye screws which hold the toboggan chain, but your toboggan's design may differ.)

5. Lay a tarp across the toboggan, then position your load. Make sure nothing sticks out over the toboggan sides.

6. Fold the tarp carefully up the sides, then in front and in back of the load. Be careful not to disturb the rope loops under the tarp as you work.

7. Find the centre of your *second* 15 m rope and tie it to the rear loop you made in step 1. A larkshead knot is el-

egant but requires dragging the rope through. An overhand knot works just as well. The twists in the loop help keep the ropes from slipping as you tighten the lashing.

8. Bring the ends of the lashing rope to the sides and slip one through the rearmost loop on each side. A twist or two in the loop before lashing will help. Don't try to pull the lashing really tight at this point; you'll simply pull out the bottom loops.

9. Work towards the front of the toboggan, slipping the lashing through each loop in turn and crossing it over top to the other side. Two partners working in tandem makes this an easy job.

10. When you reach the front, slip the ropes through or around any convenient anchorage, such as the small toboggan chain. Tighten the lashings (working from back to front) and tie them off. ^

— Greybeard is the Scouting name of Tom Gray. He lives in Sunnybrook, AB.

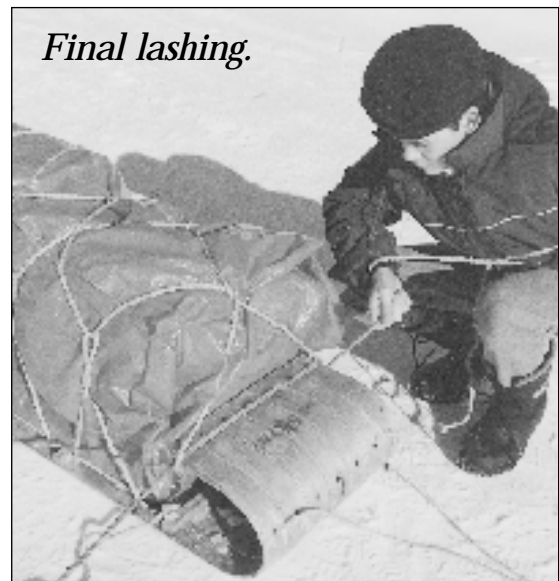
Program Links

Cubs: Winter Cubbing Badge, Green Star

Scouts: Winter Scouting Badge, Scoutcraft Badge



The bottom rope and loops are ready for the tarp.



Final lashing.

Photos: Greybeard

Small Miracles

Why Scouting Matters

by Richard Worzel

One night after a regular weekly meeting a single mother approached me. She said she depended heavily on male Scout leaders. They provided the father figure role models her son needed.

My maternal grandparents were born, raised and buried in the same small-town community. They knew, and were known to, just about everybody who lived in the area. In times of trouble they could count on these long-time friends for support. But society has changed.

As transportation became cheaper and people more mobile, the extended family gave way to the nuclear family. Several decades ago when I attended high school, in my class of thirty-five kids, perhaps only one came from what was then called a "broken home." A few others came from families where both parents were forced to work. They had to make do without a mother at home. These children were objects of our pity. We spoke of them in whispers and made allowances if their behaviour was erratic or occasionally antisocial.

Today the nuclear family is crumbling. Only about 12% of families with children have the "traditional" pattern of one parent staying at home while the other earns a living outside the home. One third of Canadian marriages end in divorce, while more than 70% of pre-school children are cared for on a regular basis by someone other than their parents.

These changes have a profound affect on youth. Single parents especially depend on Scouting to provide some formative support of their children.

Children in Bear Traps

A Laval University study shows that after an 'average' Canadian divorce, 60% of mothers who win custody of their children end up living below the pover-

ty level. Most often the reason involves a "deadbeat dad" not paying child support. His children too are caught in the trap. For some children, it's a trap that follows them all their life.

Poverty is not the only harmful effect of divorce. A Princeton University



Help them reach their potential.

Photos: Paul Ritchi

study shows that children who grow up in single parent families caused by divorce are more likely to drop out of school, marry in their teens, have children out of wedlock and experience a marriage breakdown of their own.

Children from "broken homes" tend to blame themselves for their sit-

This conversation reinforced something I already knew: Scouting matters to a great many people. Never has this been more true than today when society is undergoing such rapid changes.

uation, even though they didn't create it. This too influences their lives in a negative way.

Naturally our Movement cannot cure all of society's ills, though it does perform occasional miracles. But we Scouters have no magic formula. Our group tries to build responsible, self-confident young people by starting at a basic orientation point: Care about your Scouting youth.

Here are some field-tested ideas and techniques to show you care. They've worked well in our Scout section.

Be a Friend and a Role Model

A good leader is a good listener. Young people often don't know any adults who will listen and take them seriously. Whenever possible, give those kids who really need it time to talk and open up. Start each week fresh. Don't dwell on past problems and mistakes. Lead by example. Don't be a phoney; it will throw doubts on all your efforts.

Emphasize the Law and the Promise

If we talk about what these mean, then we are indirectly emphasizing the importance of people — including the Scout himself. In our troop, we usually focus on this when we invest a new Scout. We may also include the Law and the Promise in other activities, like an obstacle race or during an outdoor hike. We encourage discipline by occasionally pointing out behaviour that does not correspond with the oaths they've chosen to take.

Set High Expectations

We expect nothing from people who are worth nothing. If you set high standards and let your Scouts know that you expect them to excel, then you send a clear, direct message:

- you are worth more than you might feel, and
- you are capable of more than you might believe possible.

We accomplish this through activities and badge work, but in more subtle ways as well. We inspect uniforms and deduct patrol points for even minor lapses. Leaders always compliment the Scouts on new badges sewn on, and let them know that we're proud of what they've done.

While we don't expect a new badge every week, we keep prodding (supportively, without criticizing) so the Scouts work toward their set goals. The message is always: we expect a lot from you because we know you're capable of it.

Give them Roots

Even though ours was one of the first troops in Toronto (celebrating our 75th anniversary this year) the minister who founded the group called us the 58th because he had served as chaplain for the 58th Canadian Regiment in World War I. Many decades later, we still take our Scouts into the church where the 58th's regimental colours hang. It gives the youth a sense of history, stability and permanence — something children need especially in today's hurried world.

Your section might not be as fortunate as ours, but seek similar means to broaden youthful horizons. For example, leaders can explain to any Scouting group how they form part of one of the largest, most successful organizations in the world. Ask them: Did you know you would be welcomed in other Scouting groups in more than 150 countries? The organization to which they belong has a great history. Scouting youth have a right to feel real pride in this tradition. As one child proudly said after hearing the story of our Scouting group, "I guess this means we're somebody from somewhere, doesn't it?"

Respect Them as Individuals

Kids want to provide input for their activities and programs. Not only is it flattering for them, but it helps them develop greater self-respect. Consult

them often and discuss options. Leaders should be quick to admit mistakes and apologize when appropriate. Following this advice, our troop experience shows that youth will not only treat leaders with greater respect, but each other as well.

Whatever you do, care about your Scouting youth.

Encourage Achievement

Our troop accomplishes this through weekly badge work. We help the kids plan their next goal and map out how they can move toward accomplishing it. Most badge work is completed in groups, but in some cases leaders will detail a senior Scout or a Venturer to help younger kids. This sends at least two messages:

- you're important enough to merit the attention of someone senior
- you too could be an important resource to the troop in several years.

Since a group of boys has started working on Personal Fitness Awards, the entire troop takes part in calisthen-

ics at meetings. This is entirely voluntary, but no one has opted out. Their pride won't let them.

Foster Friendly Competition

A running competition exists between our patrols. It begins with inspection, and extends to games, all activities, even fantasy role-playing contests at camps. Competing with their peers in a friendly way encourages youth on to even greater achievement levels. They look up to patrol leaders (or assistant patrol leaders) and seek to become one themselves.

Don't Take Things Too Seriously

Achievement is great, but have fun! Our troop meetings ring with a lot of laughter. It's easy to take ourselves too seriously, but if your gatherings aren't fun, how long will your troop last? Not long! Everyone, including leaders, should enjoy their Scouting experience.

Encourage Each Scout Individually

Our leaders regularly talk to individual youth about what they've achieved so far, and what they need to work on to make themselves better Scouts.

We had one Scout who was tearing his way through challenge badges as he worked to earn a gold chain in his first year. There was only one problem: his clowning around was often disruptive to others. We explained to him that everything he had done so far involved individual achievement. That wouldn't win him the Chief Scout's Award or a position as patrol leader. We challenged



Give kids the opportunity to really "ham it up" sometimes — the sillier the better!

him to work toward becoming a leader by watching others in his troop. "A good leader must sometimes be a good follower," we pointed out. After many months of concentrated, (though enjoyable) work, this Scout is close to earning his Chief Scout's Award, even though he's only in his second year.

Involve the Parents

We talk to individual parents when they come to pick up their boys. If that isn't possible we speak to them over the phone. Leaders discuss how the child is doing, what we expect of him, and ask the parent to help in specific ways. We also call on parents for specific needs such as driving kids to camp or organizing events. We don't wait for volunteers to step forward; we take the initiative. Even if parents don't want to help, they like to be asked. It makes them feel part of the team.

Remember Your Former Scouts

Like all troops, we lose kids to other activities. Sometimes they just don't find Scouting fun any more. When they leave we present them with a certificate recognizing their Scouting years. If they have a badge coming that we didn't have in stock before they left, we'll call their home and drop it off. Even months after their departure, when our Scouters see them in the community, we greet them by name, stop and chat.



Cubs and Scouts love new, exciting experiences. They'll remember the adventures into adulthood.

Why bother?

We want them to understand that they're important — and not just while they wear the Scout uniform. It's also a reminder that all the good things they experienced in our troop are still waiting for them, if they decide to rejoin.

This approach to building up young people works wonders. It helps form them into responsible, caring citizens. We've noticed a real difference.

The Toronto 58th has 11 Scouts and five Venturers. One of our Venturers who has his Queen's Venturer's Award (as well as his Chief Scout's Award) is serving as an assistant Cub leader. Two other Venturers have their Chief Scout's Awards. As for our senior Scouts, four are close to earning their Chief Scout's Awards. One is already serving as an assistant Beaver leader. The younger troop members are eyeing the older Scouts' badges and chevrons hungrily, and working feverishly to catch up. They are a credit to the community and a fine example.

Does Scouting matter?

It sure does. Families depend on our programs to deliver more than just ninety minutes of fun activities. Our miracles may be small, but they affect the lives of young people in many ways for decades. ^

— *Richard Worzel is an assistant Scouter with the 58th Toronto Group, ON. A professional futurist and speaker, he is the author of Facing the Future: The Seven Forces Revolutionizing Our Lives, which is dedicated to Lord Baden-Powell and the Scouting/Guiding Movements.*

PRAISE CAN WORK WONDERS

Adults often overlook the importance of praise and recognition. Sometimes we think children only deserve it for exceptionally good behaviour or outstanding performance. Let's start praising them when they perform tasks without complaint, or when they act thoughtfully.

Some children feel lost and forgotten. This sometimes leads to discipline problems. These tips will help you give recognition and praise more effectively.

- ✓ 'Catch' children being good. Don't save recognition for perfect behaviour.
- ✓ Deserved praise never spoiled a teenager.

- ✓ Increase praise for difficult youth.
- ✓ Encourage others with smiles, eye contact and enthusiasm.
- ✓ Praise publicly.
- ✓ Praise immediately.

Let's look for every opportunity to encourage youth in our groups. It's just another excellent tool to build them up and prepare them for the future.

— *Thanks to Jim Wolfe, Thunder Bay, ON.*

Fundraising and PR Updates

by John Rietveld

Let's discuss recent developments in two separate areas: fundraising and PR. We'll start with fundraising.

Direct Mail

In March 1994 National Council launched a direct mail fundraising campaign. The appeal invited people to support Scouts Canada by joining the Northern Lights Society. Nearly 9,000 Canadians have responded to date with a donation. Many donors write to tell us why they are making a contribution. By far most people say that Scouting really affected their lives in a positive way. Many donors are either present or former leaders; others are grandparents of current members. Together these people have become an important core group of supporters.

Several times a year we ask them to send a financial gift to help the continued development of projects such as Beaver and Cub JUMPSTART programs. Ten percent of existing donors respond to a second or third request. Funds raised through the direct mail program help keep the cost of Scouting affordable. Continued mailings over the next year will seek to increase our donor base and replace those who have chosen a different charity to support.

Trail's End Popcorn

Popcorn is quickly becoming Scouting's largest and most profitable fundraising activity. In the past two issues of **the Leader**, Trail's End promoted a sales incentive program to recognize top selling popcorn salespeople and an art contest to find attractive images for their traditional popcorn bucket. These activities are indicative of the sales and support provided to Scouts Canada by the Trail's End people.

If your group is looking for a successful fundraising project try Trail's End! Contact your council office or call Trail's End at 1-800-782-4255.

Partners in Growth

Recently St. Joseph Printing of Concord, ON, agreed to become a major contributor to Scoutrees for Canada. Through a program they call "Partners in Growth", trees are planted to replenish those used in the manufacture of products printed by their company. St. Joseph Printing will refer to this "Partners in Growth" project in future advertising. Monies donated offset expenses related to the provision of Scoutrees for Canada support materials to councils and groups.



Tony Gagliano, President of St. Joseph Printing, signs the "Partners in Growth" agreement with Jack Sinclair, Chair of Scouts Canada's Revenue Development Committee, looking on.

Photo: John Rietveld.

The Revenue Development Committee continues to review proposals from companies for other national fundraising activities. Tell them (c/o the National Office) about your fundraising successes.

*Now for our
Public Relations update...*

Scout-Guide Week

With the hectic period of fall registration behind us it's time to look towards next year's PR needs. We'll be celebrating Scout-Guide Week from February 18-25, 1996. If mall displays form part of your plans, contact mall managers now to book space. Mall displays help publicize Scouting. In many districts Scout-Guide Week is the second most successful time of year for recruiting youth and adults

(after September). See the May '95 **Leader** for mall display ideas.

Saying thanks is an important part of any PR program; Scout-Guide Week is traditionally a time to thank volunteers for their contribution. As your group committee or district plans its B.-P. banquet or award's night be sure to also include recognition of media, mall managers and others who help deliver Scouting's message.

90th Anniversary of Scouting

National committees have started to explore ways to incorporate Scouting's 90th anniversary into programs and events for 1997. Your district and group should start thinking now about how it might celebrate this significant birthday. Planning always takes longer than expected. Celebrate this event through group reunions, a display of old group pictures, special parent and member dinners, and 90th anniversary Beaverees and Cuborees. Do you have any other ideas? Help the National Communications Committee develop an exciting 90th Anniversary PR plan. Submit your ideas. Write the committee c/o the National Office.

CJ'97 Promotion

Ask any Scout or Venturer who has attended a jamboree to describe highlights in their Scouting career and a jamboree will most likely top the list of great experiences. Our attractive announcement in October's **Leader** included a simple jamboree planning checklist. Did you see it?

When promoting CJ'97 start by telling senior Cubs, Scouts, Venturers and parents what they can expect in Thunder Bay. Sections planning to attend the jamboree must begin fundraising now to make initial payment deadlines. PR can support these efforts; include CJ'97 references in newsletters and external promotional items. CJ'97 logo clip art is available in both hard copy and electronic format. Write to CJ'97 PR at the National Office; send along a blank diskette too. ^

A Christmas Cub Story

by Debbie Kuper

Last year Cubs in our 1st Priddis Pack, AB, really enjoyed this Christmas play. Not only does it reinforce the Cub Motto and follow *The Jungle Book* theme, but the play gives leaders an opportunity to entertain the entire pack.

Cut loose! Make the performance as fun as possible. It doesn't need a lot of preparation, though Cubs (or Beavers) might want to make props.

NARRATOR:

It was a cold winter night many years ago. The sun had set, leaving the stars to provide little warmth for the animals of the jungle. The frosty trees shimmered and sparkled in the moonlight.

All the animals were quiet. There was an unusual calm that night. They knew something special was about to happen.

For the past few weeks a bright, unfamiliar star had appeared in the sky.

The wolves lay in the glen, feeling stuffed and satisfied from a recent kill. Baloo dozed near the creek, his belly full from winter berries he had found near the jungle edge. Kaa was curled up seemingly asleep, but he was, as always, alert to the rustlings of the jungle.

KAA (Whispering):

"Shhh. I hear human voices in the distance."

AKELA (Alarmed):

"Raksha, we must get the cubs to the lair for protection."

KAA:

"No Akela, don't be alarmed. The voices are soft and gentle."

RAKSHA:

"I can hear the voices now too. It is a man human and a woman human. They sound tired. Maybe they're lost."

AKELA:

"Kaa, you move the most quietly. Go see if you can spot them."

NARRATOR:

Kaa slithers silently along to the edge of the jungle, near the creek. Akela and Raksha follow a distance behind, always keeping their cubs quiet so as not to give away their presence. Past the creek the jungle thins out and becomes desert.

As Akela and Raksha approach the creek the cubs discover Baloo sleeping. He's snoring loudly. They jump all over him playfully nipping at his ears and paws.

BALOO (Loudly):

"ROAR!! Get off me you silly pups. Can't anyone sleep peacefully around here?"

RAKSHA (Quietly):

"Hush. You'll give us away. We hear people just past the creek."



BALOO:

"People? What in tarnation are people doing this far from the towns?"

AKELA:

"Kaa has gone to see if he can find out. Cubs quiet down."

NARRATOR:

The cubs settle all over Baloo and help him scratch his back in that itchy spot he could never reach. Without a sound, Kaa returns to the creek.

KAA:

"There are two people. The woman is really big and acting strange. If you come quietly to the edge of the hill you'll see them. They're walking south in the desert."

NARRATOR:

Raksha settled the cubs near the creek. Then Kaa leads Baloo, Raksha and Akela towards the crest of the hill.

AKELA:

"Baloo! Would you try to walk quietly? Follow me and don't break the twigs and branches when you walk."

KAA:

"The people are over there."

AKELA:

"I can see them now. They're very tired."

BALOO:

"I wonder who they are. The woman looks like she's eaten a whole berry field."

RAKSHA:

"Baloo, move out of the way so I can see too. Oh yes... that woman is going to give birth to a cub. That's why she keeps stopping."

KAA:

"I wish we could help them. They haven't had time to make a nest for their eggs."

AKELA:

"Kaa. I don't think humans lay eggs. I think they birth their babies live. They need a lair."

BALOO (Arguing):

"Or a den."

AKELA (Arguing):

"It could be a lair."

KAA (Arguing):

"Why wouldn't they lay their LIVE baby in a nest?"

RAKSHA:

"Hush you silly water buffaloes. We must figure out how we can help. Human people probably deliver in the shelter they call houses. She'll never be able to walk to the next town. It's too far."

AKELA:

"You're right Raksha. We *must* help them. It's a good thing to do."

KAA:

"Perhaps Baloo could carry them on his back. He's pretty strong."

BALOO:
"Yes! I could carry them to the town."

AKELA:
"No my friend. A big brown bear would frighten them."

KAA:
"Perhaps another animal that isn't frightening to them. A zebra would carry them swiftly."

AKELA:
"An elephant would be sure-footed."

RAKSHA:
"A gazelle would be the fastest."

BALOO:
"A tiger could carry them. Shere Khan isn't far away. Maybe he'll carry them."

KAA:
"Baloo! Shere Khan is a *man eating* tiger. That doesn't mean he likes pizza you know! He'd eat the man human, the woman human and her new cub too. What about a donkey?"

AKELA:
"That's it! Kaa you're brilliant. A donkey could carry her to the next town. Donkeys are domesticated and wouldn't frighten them. Now, where do we get a donkey?"

BALOO:
"There's a rancher near the edge of the jungle. He has cows and horses and I think he has donkeys too."

KAA:
"That's a *great* idea!"

RAKSHA:
"Let's go borrow one of his donkeys. Baloo, lead the way."

NARRATOR:
The four friends head off west after Baloo, making sure not to be seen by the man and woman. They come upon a small house and an old barn. They can see the cows and sheep and horses in the field.

KAA:
"Don't get too close or you'll frighten the animals. They might make noise and awaken the man human inside. Let me go up and look in the barn."

NARRATOR:
Kaa slithers up to the barn. The door is shut tight. The window is too high

for him to see through. He makes his way back to his friends.

KAA:
"I can't see if there's a donkey in there."

AKELA:
"Raksha and I will herd the animals to the far side of the field. Baloo, you get closer to the barn and help Kaa look inside. But BE QUIET!"

NARRATOR:
Raksha and Akela head towards the cows, horses and sheep. They move the animals away from the barn so they cannot be startled by the big, lumbering Baloo. Kaa and Baloo move to the barn.

KAA (*Whispering loudly*):
"Baloo, lift me up to the window."



KAA (*Strangled voice*):
"Hey! Don't lift me up by my neck!"

BALOO:
"Well how am I supposed to know where your neck is? You have no body parts. Can you see anything?"

KAA:
"Yes. There are some chickens and a goat, and, over in the corner is a little donkey. Put me down and then open the door."

NARRATOR:
Baloo dumps Kaa unceremoniously to the ground and goes to the door. Not knowing his own strength he pulls the barn door right off the hinges. The chickens wake up and begin clucking in panic.

KAA:
"Quick, go grab the donkey and let's get out of here!"

BALOO:
"Come with me little donkey; we need your help! I'll grab your reins. I'd better carry you Kaa, We have to move fast!"

NARRATOR:
Baloo speeds out of the barn leading the donkey and carrying Kaa. The farmer, awakened by the panicking chickens, comes out of his house. He can't believe his eyes. He sees a huge brown bear with a big snake in his arms leading away the little donkey. The farmer scratches his head, decides he is dreaming and goes back to bed.

AKELA:
"Baloo? Did you get a donkey?"

BALOO:
"Yes, but just a little one."

RAKSHA:
"Where's Kaa?"

KAA (*Strangled voice*):
"I'm right here. Will you put me down?"

AKELA:
"We'll move ahead of the two people and leave the donkey in their path."

NARRATOR:
The four friends lead the little donkey south, past the slowly walking man and woman, then hide behind some rocks. From here they watch as the people come up to the donkey and hug it. Then the man gently lifts the woman onto the little donkey. Together they head off towards the lights of the town.

AKELA:
"The motto of the Wolf Cub pack is that you will *Do Your Best*. We did well tonight my friends."

KAA:
"It feels good to do a good turn. I will try and do one every day."

BALOO:
"I just wish that sometimes we could do something important. Something that would always be remembered."

AKELA:
"Yes, but even small, good deeds can turn out to be important some day."

KAA:
"I wonder what the name of the town they are going to is called?"

RAKSHA:
"I think it's Bethlehem." \

— Debbie Kuper works with the 1st Priddis Pack in Priddis, AB.

Foiled Again!

What do a foil, épée and sabre have in common?

Together they make for an exciting program evening.

Two colonies (the 1st Seaforth Beavers, ON, and the 1st Port Wallace Colony in Dartmouth, NS) recently featured a fencing theme night. Both colonies invited a local fencing club to visit their ponds and demonstrate the sport.

After carefully explaining the differences between a foil, épée and sabre, club members demonstrated fencing strategies and moves, as well as safety procedures.

"Fencing does not involve two people with metal sticks trying to hurt each other," said Nova Scotia Scouter, Mike Kipper. "Strategy, not brute force, is the key to success." A successful fencer anticipates an opponent's every move.

After donning safety equipment, each Beaver took a turn. "On guard!" Beavers then made their own sword craft. "Use foam pipe insulation for the blade and aluminum foil to make a guard," says Scouter Kipper. "Add tape, coloured stick-on vinyl and voilà! You've created an awesome sword."

With Beavers decked out in knightly attire and holding their foam swords, their fencing club guests lead them through some fencing moves.

Scouter Lesley Ash's 1st Seaforth Colony started the evening by gathering for a "Knights of the Round Table" meeting. The fencing demonstrations followed. Afterwards each youth made armour and a helmet. Suitably attired, they practised jousting by prancing around the gym holding toilet plungers in front of them. A surprise visit from a dragon (a Cub volunteer in a costume) heightened the excitement.

Would your Beavers enjoy a fencing program? Only limited changes would make this program evening perfect for Cubs and Scouts. Why not include it as part of a Knights of Olde or Pirate theme month?

Swinging swords and foils are sure to excite any youth. Beavers from both colonies left for home with their imaginations aflame!

— Thanks to Lesley Ash of the 1st Seaforth Beavers, ON, and Mike Kipper (Hawkeye) of the 1st Port Wallace Colony in Dartmouth, NS.

Recycle those Christmas trees. Make walking sticks



One of the hardest parts of making a suitable walking stick involves finding the perfect branch. It must be strong enough, but not too hard or soft. Of course, it can't come from a living tree.

Our troop finds an abundant supply of perfect sticks each year after Christmas — Scotch pine trees.

Before your troop breaks for Christmas, tell everyone to be on the lookout for Scotch pine trees standing at the end of driveways a week or two after Christmas. (Remind Scouts to first ask the homeowner if they can take the tree.)

The perfect Scotch pine is a structurally sound tree about half a metre longer than your finished walking stick. This size will enable Scouts some flexibility when carving. If they find a tree with a curved or twisted stem, all the better! It opens up some creative opportunities.

Once everyone has a tree, remove all the branches and put the stick in a warm, dry basement. By mid March it will be ready for carving.

Now the fun begins. Peel off all the bark, then decide what design to carve into the top. Our troop's more ornate sticks (made from stems with a large diameter) feature an aboriginal head based on Pacific coast native art styles, a Scouter wearing an old style stetson hat, and the Scout symbol with a maple leaf. Scouts made these using hand saws, chisels and other woodcarving tools.

Only the wood characteristics and your imagination dictate the final appearance.

— Tim Leitch works with the 10th Whiteby Scouts, ON.



Photo: Mike Kipper

Beavers perfect their fencing techniques after making swords from foam pipe insulation.

CALLING ALL SCOUT ENGINEERS. CAN YOU BEAT 120 KG?

Each year North Halton District Scouts look forward to a very popular bridge-building and design project. Rather than steel and reinforced wire, they make their bridges from popsicle sticks.

The challenge: Build the strongest or most beautiful bridge possible. It must weigh less than 80 grams, span over 40 cm and have a minimum 8 cm width for cars or trucks to pass through.

After leaders explain a few rules, each child gets 62 popsicle sticks and coloured glue. Sometimes Scouts work on their own; others join together in pairs or with several patrol members.

The youth have six weeks to finish the bridges. On the last night we judge them in two categories:

- overall design (based on workmanship, style and appearance), and



Photo: Jean Layman

"Remember guys. We're limited to only 62 popsicle sticks."

- strength (based on ability to sustain a heavy weight).

A specially-built test machine using a lever arm finds out how much weight each bridge can withstand. Bridges must sustain a specific load for 10 seconds. Weights are applied to the bridges as near as possible to the midpoint of the roadway.

Last year a bridge designed by Donald Brooks withstood an incredible

stress force of over 120 kg! Second and third place winners stood up under a force of about 33.5 kg.

Can your Scouts beat that?

— Jean Layman, North Halton District, Ontario.

Program Links

Scouts: Modeller Badge.

So what? Sew Anything!

We like to encourage our Cubs to sew their own badges and stars on without asking mom or dad. But most children have never handled a needle and thread before. One of our leaders thought up a neat program idea that teaches them basic sewing skills.

Purchase some open weave burlap and cut it into squares of approximately 30 cm. Next, get your Cubs to draw on some easy shapes like a circle, square and triangle. Holding a large needle (one with a big eye and a blunt point), let them outline the shape with wool thread. This will teach them the technique of moving a needle up and down through the fabric.

Once they have mastered this feat, let them move on to the real thing. A good starting project is to sew a badge or crest onto a campfire blanket using a regular needle and thread.

Not only do our Cubs enjoy being able to show off this new skill, but parents like it too. X

— Ana Koenig works with the 1st Brackendale Pack in Squamish, BC.



Photo: Rick Ross

Let Cubs and Scouts sew on their own badges.

Fun at the Pond

by Lena Wong



Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah!

December is packed full of program opportunities for you and your Beavers to enjoy. Our list of celebrations and holidays includes:

December 6	Sinta Klaas Day (Holland)
December 6	St. Nicholas Day (Italy)
December 6-13	Hanukkah
December 13	St. Lucia Day (Sweden/Italy)
December 16	Los Posados (Mexico)
December 21	Chinese Winter Festival
December 24	Christmas Eve (celebrated in many countries, especially in Europe)
December 25	Christmas Day
December 25	Giang Sinh (Vietnam)
December 26 - January 1	Kwanza (North American festival)

Multicultural and culture-specific theme activities abound. They should help keep your colony members happy and busy.

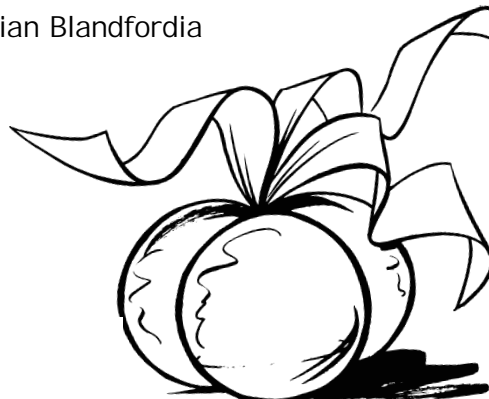
DECORATIONS

Here are some activities to start off your celebrations. Most come from two publications: *Globalchild*, by Maureen Cech, and *Let's Celebrate!*, by Caroline Parry.

Australian Blandfordia (Christmas bell)

This decoration should look like the red and yellow Christmas bell flower which blooms during the Australian summer (i.e. Christmas time). Each

Australian Blandfordia



Beaver needs three balloons (red or yellow) and green crêpe paper.

Half fill each balloon with water, then knot each at the top. Tie the three balloons together with green crêpe paper, stretching the paper out so it resembles leaves. Hang these decorations from a ceiling hook. They're too heavy for a tree.

Ghanian Akuaba Doll

This doll would make either an attractive Christmas tree ornament or window hanging. Each Beaver needs two craft sticks, an 8 cm cardboard circle (or oval), a 10 cm length of cotton thread, a few small beads, two safety pins, markers or crayons, and glue.



Akuaba Doll

Glue the two craft sticks together in a "T" shape. String the beads on the thread, tie them off and hang them over one craft stick. Draw facial features on the cardboard circle. Glue the face on the stick holding the necklace. Push the safety pins through the sides of the head and close for earrings. Put a few small beads on the safety pins to dress them up. String a ribbon or wool loop through a hole at the top of the head to hang the doll up.

Kinara

Many festivals taking place in December use light and candles. Jewish people celebrating Hanukkah light menorahs, while some Canadians of African descent celebrate Kwanza with their kinaras.

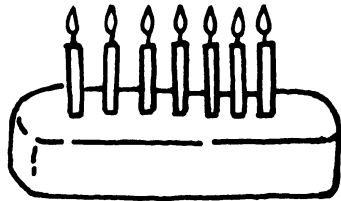
The kinara is a candlestick with seven branches. The candle in the middle is black, the three on the left are green and the three on the right are red.



To make a kinara you need craft dough (or play dough) and inexpensive white candles. Shape a base from the dough about 8 cm thick; place the seven candles in a row along the length of the base. When you have made the holes for the candles, take them out and let the kinara dry.

Light the middle candle on the first night. On subsequent nights, use it to light the other candles, alternating between the red and green sides until all are lit.

Kinara



Make sure Beavers understand that lighted candles are not toys. Only adults should light them.

Mirror Star (Scandinavia and India)

In Scandinavia Christmas trees are topped with a star — “julestjerne” in Danish. Stars are used in many Christmas decorations around the world. In India the “shishadur” originates from the state of Saurashtra.

To make a mirror star, each Beaver needs two star shapes cut from Bristol board. Glue silver foil to both sides. Cut a slit half way through both stars. Fit the two stars together to make a three dimensional star. Use large stars to hang from ceilings and small ones for the tree. If you shine a light off them, your meeting room will shimmer.

CAROLLING

What's Christmas without music?

In Scandinavia most families place their tree in the middle of the floor on Christmas Eve. When they finish dinner they join hands encircling the tree and dance around it singing carols. After the singing, they distribute the gifts piled under the tree.

Organize a similar idea for your colony. It will let Beavers exercise their singing skills while practising some good carols — and perhaps a few funny ones. Here is an amusing carol from *Globalchild*. Sing it to the tune of “I Saw Three Ships Come Sailing In.”

*There was a pig went out to dig on Christmas day, on Christmas day.
There was a pig went out to dig on Christmas day in the morning.*

*There was a crow went out to mow on Christmas day, on Christmas day.
There was a crow went out to mow on Christmas day in the morning.*

*There was a cow went out to plough on Christmas day, on Christmas day.
There was a cow went out to plough on Christmas day in the morning.*

*There was a sheep went out to reap on Christmas day, on Christmas day.
There was a sheep went out to reap on Christmas day in the morning.*

One of the loveliest Christmas carols I know was originally written for the Huron people in 1641 by Father Jean de Brébeuf. It's called *The Huron Carol* (sometimes *The Canadian Carol*). Try to get a recording of this beautiful carol and teach it to your Beavers. You might also simply read it as a poem during your Christmas festivities.

*T'was in the moon of winter time
When all the birds had fled
That mighty Gitchi Manitou
Sent angel choirs instead
Before their light the stars grew dim
And wandering hunters heard the hymn:
“Jesus, your King, is born
Jesus is born: In excelsis gloria!”*

*Within a lodge of broken bark
The tender babe was found,
A ragged robe of rabbit skin
Enwrapped his beauty round;
And as the hunter braves drew nigh
The angel song rang loud and high:
“Jesus, your King, is born
Jesus is born: In excelsis gloria!”*

*The earliest moon of winter time
Is not so round and fair
As was the ring of glory on
The helpless infant there.
The chiefs from far before him knelt
With gifts of fox and silver pelt.
“Jesus, your King, is born
Jesus is born: In excelsis gloria!”*

*O children of the forest free,
O sons of Manitou,
The holy child of earth and heaven
Is born today for you.
Come kneel before the radiant boy
Who brings you beauty, peace and joy.
“Jesus, your King, is born
Jesus is born: In excelsis gloria!”*

December has a lot of special events and days to make the month speed by with excitement. X

ENERGY BURNERS

Youth almost burst with energy during this season. These games should harness a little of their enthusiasm.



Ptarmigans and Ducks

This tug of war game was traditionally played during the Inuit Feast of Sedna which celebrated the defeat of Sedna, the evil mistress of the underworld.

Form two teams. Name one “the ptarmigans” and the other “the ducks.” The ptarmigans should theoretically be made up of people born in winter and the ducks of people born in summer. Use discretion to ensure that both teams are balanced. The teams must pull on a rope against each other. If the ducks win (according to Inuit mythology) it means there will be fewer winter storms.



Hora

This Jewish dance is full of energy. Dance it to a traditional tune such as “Hava Negillah.” Start with two dancers holding hands raised above their heads. Hop and kick once in one direction, then another in time to the rhythm of the music. Add another dancer and continue until all your Beavers are in the line. When the line is complete, close it to form a circle and continue dancing faster and faster for as long as the Beavers can hold out.



Book Talk

by Dave Jenkinson



This month's *Book Talk* column goes beyond the print medium to include an excellent video called, *Through Wolf Eyes: The Story of a Gray Wolf*. This half hour video dispels many nursery rhyme myths which portray wolves as "bad." Using mostly live action shots, viewers follow a wolf (Lucas) through his life cycle. At 14, Lucas is a very old wolf. In the video he chronologically recalls his life in the pack right through to these, his final days, where, hindered by injuries caused by accidents and the deliberate attempts of man to kill him, he can no longer join in pack hunts.

Through Wolf Eyes portrays Lucas' life realistically. An activity booklet accompanies the video. A "paw" symbol appears on the television screen when viewers should stop the video to refer to the booklet. A Wolf Cub pack might decide to watch the entire video and discuss the questions in the activity booklet later. Watching this video with a Beaver colony would make an excellent linking activity. It would give White Tail Beavers an overview of life in a real wolf pack.

Though individual packs may not want to buy their own copy of the video, your district/area should definitely consider purchasing *Through Wolf Eyes*. As a public relations gesture, why not donate a copy to the local public library? **(Cubs: Naturalist Badge 8, Observer Badge 1, World Conservation Badge 5)**

After romping through the forest with a pack of wolves, life in urban areas can seem rather dull. But author/illustrator Jan Thornhill, via *Wild in the City*, reminds young readers that, if they look around them, they will discover that various wild creatures are sharing our towns and cities with us. Using a brief storyline and many full-colour paintings, Thornhill describes some of these animals, birds and insects which co-exist

with us. Leaders might follow up the reading with a sharing session where children describe the animals they have encountered locally. A good read-to book for Beavers, *Wild in the City* should be within the independent reading abilities of most Cubs. **(Cubs: Naturalist Badge, Observer Badge)**

This video will be a 'howling' success.



Two other books with a nature focus are *The Kids Canadian Bird Book* and *The Kids Canadian Tree Book*, both written by Pamela Hickman and illustrated by Heather Collins. These books contain an entertaining mixture of information and interesting "trivia." As well, the books offer hands-on activities and experiments. For instance, the bird book provides directions for making a very simple bird house from a milk carton and an equally uncomplicated bird feeder from a pop bottle. The tree book includes activities like making maple syrup or drying fruit snacks. If your colony or pack enjoyed these two books, watch next spring for companion insect and plant books in this "Kids Canadian Nature" series. **(Cubs: Gardener Badge, Naturalist Badge, Observer Badge, Recycling Badge, World Conservation)**

Biologist and science journalist Adrian Forsyth provides a different view of animals in *How Monkeys Make Chocolate: Foods and Medicines from the Rainforests* by showing the relationships be-

tween animals and plants in the world's rainforests. These associations often benefit humans. The title refers to the brown capuchin monkey's fondness for the fruit pods of the cacao tree. While the monkey likes the fruit's pulp, it spits out the bitter seeds — seeds which people eventually learned to process into the principal ingredient in chocolate. Profusely illustrated with colour photographs, Forsyth's book discusses numerous other nature examples, from spices (like cinnamon and vanilla) to cancer drugs. **(Cubs: International Trade Badge)**

Now a book just for fun. Carolyn Jackson will answer questions you never really thought about in her book, *The Flying Ark*. Graham Bardell's humorous, cartoon-like illustrations accompany the text. Have you ever wondered how airlines transport animals like gorillas, flamingoes, dolphins, octopuses or giraffes? Jackson supplies the answers about the travelling habits of these and many other creatures as she takes Cub-aged readers aboard *The Flying Ark*.

Video & Book Details

- A. Forsyth, *How Monkeys Make Chocolate: Foods and Medicines from the Rainforests*, Owl Books, 1995: \$9.95 (paper).
- P. Hickman, *The Kids Canadian Bird Book*, Illus. by Heather Collins, Kids Can Press, 1995: \$14.95.
- P. Hickman, *The Kids Canadian Tree Book*, Illus. by Heather Collins, Kids Can Press, 1995: \$14.95.
- C. Jackson, *The Flying Ark*, Stoddart, 1990, 1995: \$7.95 (paper).
- J. Thornhill, *Wild in the City*, Owl Books, 1995: \$14.95.
- Through Wolf Eyes: The Story of a Gray Wolf*. Order from Rising Tide Communications, P.O. Box 105, Falmouth, Nova Scotia, B0P 1L0. (Cost: \$29.95 plus \$5.00 shipping and handling.) X

Required Reading, Or...

Where to go for the right answer

by Colin Wallace

Every school course in the world (with the possible exception of Patio Maintenance 101) has a required reading list. But Scouter training courses make no such demands of their participants. Maybe they should.

Reading gives many benefits, not the least of which is the knowledge you gain from the pages. Books provide an easy source of reference for new games, crafts, activities and outings. They also let readers absorb text at their own pace, chosen in the most helpful sequence and context. They can skip over ideas that don't apply to their program, or can read the words over and over until understanding finally dawns.

A Book for All Seasons

What books should be on a required reading list for a section Scouter? What authors are important? Here are my suggestions.

1. Start by reading every book written by B.-P. *Scouting for Boys* is excellent. It will help new Scouters understand the Movement's origins and history. Yes, I hear those groans. I know B.-P. wrote more than 30 books and dozens of articles, but you don't have to read them all in the first month.
2. Next, read everything written about B.-P., especially Tim Jeal's recent biography, *Baden-Powell*. This will give you insight into the founder's genius and the environment that influenced him. Yes, I know that dozens of books have been written about B.-P. That should tell you something about him before you even open a book.
3. Green Bar Bill (William Hillcourt) wrote widely on the Scouting Movement. His works brim over with great program ideas and ac-

tivities — a terrific resource. Hillcourt also wrote a B.-P. biography called *The Two Lives of a Hero*. Hey! Reading this book will give you two for the price of one.

4. John Sweet's books emphasize Scouting fun in the outdoors. Turn to them for even more field-tested ideas. *Caution*: Sweet's calculated craziness is highly contagious. Don't let this fun-loving behaviour creep into your weekly program. Who knows how it will affect youth?
5. If you're looking for mental development, read any work by Neil Postman.
6. Dr. Kenneth Cooper's writings are excellent for your physical development.
7. Don't forget to read and re-read your Woodbadge notes and handouts. They don't benefit anyone when you leave them packed away in the closet.
8. We all need to know the Scouting rules. *By-law, Policies, & Procedures* will tell you just about everything.
9. For those unsure about some aspect of their program, just snuggle into a comfortable chair and peruse your section handbook.
10. The last 10 issues of **the Leader** will bring you up to date on the latest program developments.
11. Keep abreast of district events by skimming the minutes of your last district team meeting.
12. In your spare time you might also look at your Scouter's Promise — just to remind yourself why you are reading all the other stuff.

After reading this material, discuss it with others. Argue its finer points. Per-

haps your Scouters' Club could start a book club. What a great place to brainstorm new program ideas!

Read actively with pencil in hand and note pad beside you. If the book belongs to you, make notes in the margin. Underline key items. Highlight sections you want to remember. You might find an unusual twist or new game to add sparkle to your program.

Get a library card and speak to your librarian. Just finding some of the books in my list will lead you to discover other interesting books. Ask your Service Scouter for suggestions on further reading. Of course, you probably have your own list of books to include in a required reading list for section Scouters. Read them too!

Scouting books are packed full of great ideas. They will give your program a vibrant new lift. Check them out. X

— Colin Wallace is a trainer in Greater Toronto Region, ON.

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SCOUTING THE NET

by Tom Obright

You've got your modem working, signed up with an Internet service provider, loaded the software, and you're ready to "surf the net." So now what?

When the weather is not good enough for your section to get outdoors, why not tour the world using the Internet World Wide Web? The World Wide Web is the electronic publishing part of the Internet. Before starting you need access to the Internet (usually through a service provider), web browsing software (Mosaic or NetScape are popular), and the site's address.

A six or patrol might find this fascinating. Choose one person as the web navigator. This person works at the computer, while the remaining youth pour over maps (and tourist brochures if available) to plot the course. Try this interesting challenge; see if your group can guide the navigator around the world using sites on the Internet.

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Let's Go!

This is how I began my 'round-the-world trip. I started at the following Scouting jumpstation: (<http://http2.brunel.ac.uk:8080/~cs92pdt/scout/links.html>). It provides links to Scouting-related web sites throughout the world. From here I linked to the Australian Scouting web site: (<http://www.fcollins.com.au/scouts/>). It showed me how people "down under" organize Scouting. It also let me browse group web sites to find someone I might want to 'speak' to via electronic mail (e-mail).

Next I retraced my steps to the jumpstation and accessed Eurofax, the electronic newsletter of the European Scout Bureau: (<http://fmatdds01.tugraz.ac.at/guertl/scout/international/eurofax.html>). Within this site I linked to the "Where to Stay in Europe" site: (<http://www.switch.ch/div/scouting/wtsie>). It lists all Scout campsites in Europe and provides tourist information. I found out about several interesting campsites (including the Kandersteg International Scout Centre) and visited the tourist information site for Switzerland: (<http://www.city.net/countries/switzerland>).

To get home I retraced my steps to the Scouting jumpstation and linked to the Whitby District home page: (<http://csclub.uwaterloo.ca:80/u/dmwick/wd-index.html>). Here I read their newsletter, *The Lighthouse*.

Why not explore Canada? Two starting points for this tour could be the "Tourism Resources" home page of "Virtual North" (<http://pcs.mb.ca/~vnorth/vnresource.html>), or the "Canadian Travel" home page of "Virtual North" (<http://pcs.mb.ca/~vnorth/vnorth.html>). Both offer links to tourist information in all parts of Canada, as well as maps and graphics to highlight the trip.

These are just a couple of tours that your Cubs and Scouts can take. Have you found any others?

E-mail

Another fun evening might involve communicating through e-mail. All you need is an electronic mail access (usually service providers give the necessary software), and the e-mail address of the person you want to contact. Keep these points in mind:

- E-mail accounts can be found at school, work or in homes. Some accounts may limit the amount of time you can retrieve and answer electronic mail. Courteous 'surfers' will keep their messages as short and concise as possible. Indicate clearly if you want a reply.
- If you request a reply to an e-mail message, remember that everybody is busy. It may take time. All e-mail does is shorten the delivery time, not the time necessary to gather information and enter it as a clear and concise message.

Accept No Substitute!

Scouting on-line is no replacement for the great outdoors, but it can be a terrific addition to your program repertoire. It's also a good way to share software and resources among Scouters. Watch **the Leader** for more Internet ideas that will enhance your Scouting program.

Happy surfing! ^

— Tom Obright is Director of Information Systems at the National Office.

Program Links

Cubs: Computer Badge, World Cubbing Badge.
Scouts: Troop/Individual Specialty Badge, Computer Badge, Citizen Badge.
Venturers: Personal Interest Activity Award.

We're On-line!

Speaking of Web sites and electronic mail, the National Council invites you to tour its web site at <http://www.scouts.ca>. Look for information on Canadian Scouting, upcoming events and general information. As well, both the National Council and **the Leader** magazine are now wired for e-mail.

To send electronic mail to the National Council, use e-mail address mailbox@scouts.ca. Send your manuscripts and field-tested program ideas to **the Leader**, at leader@scouts.ca.

Invite God to Play

by Bryon Milliere

Have you ever sat back and recalled the many Scouting experiences you've enjoyed? Several months ago I did. My thoughts drifted to the spiritual side of Scouting.

As a youth member, and later as a leader, Scouting helped develop my faith through the expectations and example of leaders. The opportunity to experience the natural world up close at camp and on day outings cultivated an appreciation for the complexity of creation. Being challenged by new experiences like sleeping in a tent in the forest and trusting others tested this faith, and that of others in my group.

Scouts' Owns and church parades were formal ways to kindle our spirituality. While our group represented many different faiths which didn't normally celebrate together, that fact alone did not seem very relevant. Our spirituality went beyond religious labels. Some of the things we appreciated included life, friendship, adults who cared, living in a peaceful country, even not being eaten by the bear that was rumoured to be nearby. We also appreciated Scouting.

By the time we had our Scouts' Own, we had survived two nights in a tent, hiked and explored, eaten heartily to feed our heightened appetites, played numerous games, created, overcame obstacles and completed many things for the first time. Then, we celebrated together, sharing our spirituality. We praised God for the marvellous creation, we acknowledged our humanness, we expressed our appreciation and we asked for help.

At camp, reflective or prayerful moments occurred prior to significant challenges like shooting a rapid, or the first night in camp as a new Scout. Grace before meals gave pause to recognize God as the provider. Creating a craft made from objects in our natural world taught me about nature's diversity. It was okay that my creation was unique. As a young Rover, I spent hours alone beside a lake in prayerful reflection. Taking time to ponder, reflect or to share gave meaning to our activities together. Encouraging each other to persevere on a hike developed respect in our troop.

Teamwork, respect for others, fairness, appreciation of nature, doing one's best, self reliance and trust are all good qualities to develop in youth, but it is

through our commitment to the principle of Duty to God that makes Scouting's activities relevant to spiritual development. If we pause before and after

or beliefs guide our choices. Consider what your core beliefs are, relative to Scouting's three Principles. How do you live them out in your daily life and

Take a walk on the spiritual side of Scouting

a significant challenge or series of activities, it allows time to focus on this spiritual aspect.

Positive Reinforcement

Leaders can reinforce the value of spiritual development by really planning a Scouts' Own, by pausing to say grace before meals, by correcting acts of disrespect and by the words they do not use.

Earning and receiving the Religion in Life Award encourages and recognizes commitment to a set of beliefs. Scouting activities provide a place to live one's faith. While peers sometimes may hold different beliefs, the examples and expectations of leaders should support spiritual growth.

Duty to God is the first principle of Scouting. We challenge members to live according to spiritual principles and to be loyal to their religion. The principle of *duty to others* challenges members to respect other's beliefs. *Duty to self* challenges members to develop their faith.

Scouting is especially meaningful to the spiritual development of those who are not associated with a specific religion. They do not have a community of like-minded believers to share the specifics of their faith. Some have said that Scouting provides a framework for their personal religious beliefs. How? It encourages individuals to deepen their beliefs and to live according to the principles of that faith. For the unattached, Scouting provides a community of people who challenge them spiritually.

Religion teaches its members about what is right and wrong. These morals

through your Scouting involvement? After considering these questions you will have a clearer understanding how to help youth understand Scouting's spiritual side.

Invite God to play. λ

the leader*

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Is Your Totem Naked?

by Ben Kruser

Why do we have a pack totem? Is it simply an interesting tool to start and finish a meeting? Does a pack totem have another use, long since forgotten in time?

B.-P. believed it should be the centre of attention and pride for all Cubs. In the first edition of the *Wolf Cub Handbook*, B.-P. wrote (paraphrased):

Every pack should own a totem pole. "Totem" comes from a native word meaning a family crest or coat of arms. The crest or coat of arms was usually painted on someone's possessions. Native families had their own totems, which were gen-

erally tall cedar posts or poles wonderfully carved with the crest (usually including a beast, bird or fish) found at the top.

All Cubs belong to one large, world-wide family. Our crest is the Wolf Head. A model can be made in fretwork, or leaders can carve one from wood. The pole can be formed from anything you want. Fasten the head to the top and voilà!

Always treat your totem with care and respect. Never knock it about. Every time a Cub earns a badge, a ribbon of the badge is fastened on the pole, and the Cub's name written on a tab which is fastened to the end. Add other honours earned by the pack as well. Perhaps you can drive into the pole a brass-headed nail for every Cub who joins the pack.

Not only was the totem intended to focus attention on Cub efforts to do their best and be a visual record of these achievements, but it was to promote the idea that when individual Cubs succeed, the pack succeeds as well. "As the creeper that girdles the tree trunk, the Law runneth forward and back. For the strength of the Pack is the Wolf, and the strength of the Wolf is the Pack." The pack totem is central to the opening and closing circle for it represents and holds the collective effort and team spirit of the pack.

Unfortunately, many packs have forgotten this purpose. They simply regard it as just another ceremonial step in the Grand Howl. So, let's ask the question:



Does your pack have a naked totem? Here are some ways to recapture the spirit of the totem, and use it to celebrate pack achievement and pride.

Investiture

When you invest Cubs into the pack, invite them to hammer a small brass or steel nail into the pole. You can explain the symbolism by stating that as a piece of wood is strengthened by adding steel, so too is the pack strengthened when a new Cub joins. The collective strengthening of many nails helps the pole stand up to pressures and stress. By working together, the pack can also stand strong against problems facing it. A nail is solid. So is the heart and character of each Cub who lives up to the Promise and Law.

Recognition

When Cubs are presented with a star, badge or award, give them a strip of cloth about 20 cm long and 4 cm wide. Colour code the cloth in some manner, according to the star, badge or award being presented. Cut the cloth down the centre along its length so it can be tied to the two strips around the totem. Let each Cub write his or her name, six, achievement earned, and date on the cloth. Have the Cub tie it to the pole just under the wolf head using a reef knot. Over time the totem will have a thick skirt of ribbons hanging from it.

Special Events

Make a special ribbon each time your pack goes on a campout. Let each Cub sign the ribbon and hang it from the totem. As well, remember any event the pack participates in with a ribbon. Your list might include Cuborees, Kub Kar rallies, memorable visits by a person or to a special place. Find out if your local mayor would like to sign a pack ribbon the next time you visit city hall.

The totem is not an object of worship. Let's remember this. It is one of many vehicles we use to recognize, praise and celebrate children as unique individuals and as members of a team.

If you have a naked totem, now is a good time to start dressing it up. X

Protect Yourself and Others! We Have a Choice.

by Michael Lee Zwiers

Scouters in Edmonton Region have been talking about “selective recruitment” for several years. The term refers to the concept of carefully screening volunteer applicants so we choose the right people for the job.

“That’s a nice concept,” a fellow trainer said, “but who really has a choice?”

“We do,” I answered. “We can’t just accept anyone who walks through the door. We need the best people. We can’t afford to lower our standards.”

“Yes,” he countered, “but who suffers if you turn away someone and the troop has to close?”

Obviously, the Scouts suffer, but they will suffer even more if the wrong person leads them. As this colleague continued talking about the “real world”, my thoughts drifted back to a few incidents in my own experience.

“My Scout leader taught us to drink,” a university acquaintance once told me. “He used to bring a few cases of beer out to camp and we’d drink them around the fire at night.”

“My Scouter lets us smoke at camp,” another youth member told me. “He doesn’t care.”

These realities make us all cringe. If we don’t talk about them openly, perhaps we’re just letting them go on.

Protect Your Scouts

I volunteered as a Scout leader at 16. This was my troop so everyone knew me, but three years ago a new Scouter volunteered.

“Who is he?” our group committee chairman asked. “Has he been a leader before? Where? What does he do for a living? How long have you known him? Do you recommend him?”

One reason why our troop consistently attracts high quality leaders is because we’re very selective. Over the years, we have turned away four Scouters from the troop for various reasons. We have also quietly turned down at least ten parent volunteers who said they’d like to go camping with the troop. If a father hasn’t volunteered at a few meetings, we need to know him a little better. Surprises can be unpleasant.

Several years ago when I volunteered at another non-profit agency, I had to fill out a detailed application form, sit through an interview, submit three names as references (all were interviewed), and have a criminal record check done by local police. People can feel confident in this agency’s screening methods.

Protect Yourself

Scouting needs to start screening volunteers too. We need to do everything possible to rise above all suspicion. I worked as a teacher and school counsellor. My principal several years ago was wrongfully accused of sexual assault by a grade six

girl. That principal advised me to give one-arm hugs, if I gave any at all, and to avoid being alone in a room with a child. If I needed to do some one-on-one counselling, the door to my room was always open. Not only must we *be* absolutely trustworthy, we must be *seen* as absolutely trustworthy.

I spoke with an American Scouter friend on the phone recently. “We aren’t even allowed to drive a child home alone,” he said. “If we have youth to transport, we have to drop the last two off at the same time. It’s local Scout policy.”

Our Canadian regulations are not so stringent, but our practices should be. Check out the new *Scout Leader’s Handbook* for some good advice — soon.

We *do* have a choice who we recruit! Let’s all protect Scouting’s young members and ourselves just a little bit better. λ

— Michael Lee Zwiers is a Scouter living in Richmond, BC.

*Not just
any person
will make an
excellent Scouter.
Let’s be
more selective.*

Code of Behaviour

Here is some good advice taken from the “Young People First” initiative of the U.K. Scout Association.

- Do... provide an example you wish others to follow.
- Do... plan activities that involve the immediate presence of more than one other adult.
- Do... respect a young person’s right to personal privacy.
- Do... arrange separate sleeping accommodation for leaders and young people.
- Do... provide opportunities for young people to talk to others about their concerns.
- Do... maintain a healthy adult lifestyle.
- Do... remember that someone else might misinterpret your actions no matter how well-intentioned they were.
- Do NOT... permit abusive youth peer activities (e.g. initiation ceremonies, ridiculing, bullying).
- Do NOT... play physical contact games with young people.
- Do NOT... jump to conclusions about others without checking facts.
- Do NOT... allow yourself to be drawn into inappropriate attention-seeking behaviour such as tantrums or crushes.
- Do NOT... exaggerate or trivialise child-abuse issues.
- Do NOT... show favouritism.
- Do NOT... make suggestive remarks or gestures.
- Do NOT... rely on just your good name to protect you.
- Do NOT... believe “it could never happen to me.”

CROSS-COUNTRY PHOTOS

READY FOR A LITTLE NIBBLE

Just like a real beaver, Scott Berthiaume of the 4th Cornwall Colony, ON, prepares to snack on a delicious looking branch. The scene was sketched by Scouter Liz Bone, then painted by the Beavers. Everyone jostled for position when a camera appeared. Photo: Mary MacLaurin.



PROUD HOSERS! Fire Venturers and Rovers attending the 7th BC/Yukon Frontier '95 Jamboree provided a valuable service as they stood ready to race into action last summer. Before the jamboree started, they had an emergency plan in place which included pre-positioned water bladders and hoses, and an initial 'attack' vehicle standing at the ready with a full crew. Photo: Charles Brown.



FOOD GALORE Each year Scouting youth in Regina, SK, work hard to collect food for those less fortunate in their community. Fire fighter Kelly Hamilton helps Beaver Adam McInnis and Cub Kayla McHale give a basket of food to the director of Regina's food bank. Many Scouting groups conduct similar food drives in late fall and early winter. Photo: Robert Watson. Thanks to Jean Thomas.

HALLOWEEN CAMPFIRE BLANKET

"What can I do?! Halloween's only two days away!" This is the question Oshawa Cub, Matthew Davis, asked in desperation when he broke his arm and couldn't fit into his planned costume. His quick-thinking mom made a campfire blanket out of bright yellow wool fleece and sewed on a collection of Wolf Cub and assorted badges. With the blanket over his shoulders and grandfather's fishing hat on his head, he became "Ranger Joe", ready to enjoy the outdoors. The costume also attracted some attention to Scouting.





"RISE, SIR CUB." Cubs from the 1st Enniskillen Pack, ON, enjoyed a Medieval Knights winter camp. During the weekend they made crowns, bright cardboard shields and swords for everyone. The grand finale of the camp involved the knighting of each Cub by the king. What a great way to teach honour, dedication and the Golden Rule.



ONE TOUGH-TOPPED QUINZHEE Northeast Avalon Region Venturers from the 1st Dunville Company, NE, showed up at their winter camp without tents. "No problem!" they said, as they set to work building a quinzhee. During the night the temperature fell to -30°C . Despite the biting cold, "we were quite comfortable," said Scouter Angus Gilbert. Thanks to Tony Cox.

Eeny, Meeny, Miney, Moe

By Ian Mitchell

Recently I saw an old photograph of our patrol heading out on a weekend hike. The five of us had packs loaded as if going on a cross-Canada journey.

We were a very cohesive group and spent much of our time working together. Our patrol system kept older, experienced Scouts together in one unit. After a while adults trusted our ability to go on short camping trips alone. It worked well for us in our rural community.

Many other methods exist for organizing patrols. Because we have no magic formulas, leaders need to experiment and find out what works best for their local circumstances. Keep in mind one important factor — youth input.

Allowing Scouts to voice their views doesn't necessarily mean they will make the final decision. Their input (perhaps through the Court of Honour?) is the vital factor. If you encourage your troop to discuss various reasons for organizing patrols in a particular way, often the exercise alone will make everyone feel wanted and accepted into the group.

Whatever method you choose to organize Scouts within the troop, base your decision on their maturity level, their prior experience working in groups, their ages, and the number of adult leaders available. Afterwards, be flexible in your programming.

Here are some ideas you might consider.

Patrols By Age

Grouping youth by age in a patrol not only eases the complexity of badge work, but also eliminates peer pressure for older Scouts. However, take care that more mature patrols don't overpower the rest of the troop. It might happen. A perception of favouritism towards older Scouts might appear too. After all, the older Scouts will have greater freedom to try out a broader range of activities than younger members.

Mixed Age Patrols

This patrol would include both younger and older children with a broad range of Scouting experience. Older Scouts will help teach or mentor younger members. Because this patrol type fosters leadership skills in experienced Scouts, you will have to work with the older youth to help them understand their role. Watch for signs of bullying. This can ruin the Scouting experience for many.

Grouped By School

Younger members especially can benefit from this type of patrol. By associating with youth in higher grades in their school, young members will feel more comfortable when others see them as a Scout. But be careful; the opposite may hold true for older kids.

They may feel embarrassed to be associated with Scouts in lower grades.

According to Interests

Why not put youth who want to work on similar badges in the same patrol? This will ease leader programming and logistical matters. One patrol can head for the pool while another takes a first aid course. An obvious benefit might involve using one patrol (e.g. the first aid Scouts) to pass on their knowledge to the swimmers.

Other Options

If youth choose their own patrol system, sometimes close friends will always work together. In many cases this will further build their relationship, but at a cost to the collective whole. In a patrol of close friends, perhaps one person will be chosen last repeatedly, leaving a feeling of low self worth.

Don't forget the co-ed option: an all male/female or mixed patrol.

Whatever you settle on, remember that patrols are separate units which make up a single troop. Plan many activities that emphasize and build this larger group.

Teamwork... decision-making... leadership... listening... cooperation.... The patrol system helps us develop these and other skills in our youth. Find out what works for your group. λ

GREENBELT AD
PICK-UP
PG.24, NOV95

Simply Brilliant!

By Ian Mitchell

I recently visited a provincial Scout event (Challenge Trails) on Prince Edward Island. One activity required Scouts to manoeuvre a very heavy weight over a balloon using a combination of ropes which flowed through pulleys. Each rope moved the weight in a different direction. One rope released the weight, which then broke the balloon. As I watched the Scouts working together I wondered how to increase the challenge so Venturers would enjoy it.

At first I thought of ways to disassemble the project. Before Venturers could break the balloon, they would have to first build the rope maze. Forget it, I thought. They'd need an engineer.

How about longer ropes and an even heavier weight? As I mused, a Venturer advisor sat down beside me. After watching intently, he said, "This activity would be great for my Venturers. I've been trying to think up activities that will help them develop leadership skills. It's hard to find ones that are also fun."

As he walked away, I nodded in agreement wondering if I was missing something important.

Of course. I had completely forgotten about one of the main reasons for the activity — to build leadership and team work. I had concentrated so hard on making it completely different and more physically challenging that I had

overlooked its incredible potential that required only minor tinkering. It could still be fun and demanding, but would call for real leadership skills. To add more spice to the activity I could simply blindfold all members except one, or do it at night with a few lights.

Soon I started thinking about the Venturer program as a whole. Do we sometimes ignore good Scout activities that any Venturer would enjoy with only a slight twist put on them? Perhaps we make things overly complex. I began thinking how to simply adapt the other Scout activities for the Venturer program. Here are some of my thoughts.

Simple Orienteering: Take easy bearings from a starting point and pace off the steps. Find a letter in the alphabet at each destination, then unscramble a word. Venturers could do this at night.

Boiling an Egg: Start a fire and boil an egg for ten minutes. For Venturers, give them only one match. They must build a no trace fire and completely extinguish it with only the water used to boil the egg.

Obstacle Course: Cross a rope (8 metres), go over a cargo net, walk on group skis and finish off on stilts. Venturers could accomplish this task without touching the ground from start to finish, or while carrying an egg.

Leaders can adapt these simple activities easily to fit different age groups or situations. Add blindfolds, darkness, restrictions on movement (or something else) and almost any activity can be speedily transferred between sections.

Certainly Venturers need new, unique activities, but not everything you do needs to be complicated to set up, complicated to supervise, or complicated to finish. Good, simple activities (some even seen before) can make their mark on Venturer programming if you let them. Just make sure the program overlap is not too profound.

Next time you're looking for a fun activity that will help build skill in your Venturers, think back to your Scout days. With a little imagination and inspiration, you'll find a terrific activity that begs a neat little twist. X

SEND US YOUR TWISTED THOUGHTS

Have you put a new twist on an old Scout activity? Did your Venturers love the idea?

Tell me about your successes. Write to me c/o *Venturer Log* and I'll share them with other leaders.

DRESSCREST AD
PICK-UP
PG. 31, AUG/SEPT'95

Nouveau Gorp

by Ben Kruser

Good ol' raisins and peanuts. For generations hikers have snacked on them. Thanks to improved food processing, greater health consciousness and outdoor gourmets, we have more menu items to choose from on the trail.

Dietary Background

Your body needs to balance its intake of carbohydrates, fat and protein to maintain adequate energy levels. Carbohydrates can be either simple (sugars) or complex (starches). Food loaded with simple carbohydrates often cause energy levels to rise quickly, then crash. Naturally you want to avoid this situation. Fats are full of energy, but convert slowly during activity. Before using fat reserves, your body first burns available carbohydrates stored in muscle tissue. Protein enables your body to rebuild muscle, provides additional energy and helps you use up carbohydrates.

Fresh bananas are a favourite after-race food for runners. Too bad they turn black and mushy in the bottom of a pack. Pretzels, a popular 1990s snack food because of their low fat content, have high sodium levels due to a coating of salt. Fig cookies are also a favourite sport snack, but they crumble on long trips.

QUINTE AD,
PICK-UP,
PAGE 27
NOV '95

Sport bars are a processed food that have vitamins and minerals added. People tend to either love or hate the taste of different sport bars. As well, in cold weather they can become difficult to eat. Most are expensive. There are a wide variety, so pick and choose the one that meets your energy needs and taste.

Homemade But Good

Are you interested in a low cost alternative to commercial sport bars that combines the goodness of natural foods? Try these recipes for your next outdoor trip.

Bank Balls

(191 calories per ball)

This recipe takes two hours to make a nutritious snack that won't melt in summer or turn rock hard in winter.

Ingredients:

24 dried figs	2 mL baking powder
100 mL honey	15 mL canola oil
60 mL orange juice	2 egg whites
30 mL lemon juice	60 mL dark corn syrup
725 mL cups flour	5 mL lemon juice
250 mL oat bran	

Combine figs, honey, orange juice and lemon juice in a food processor. Chop into fine bits. Set aside.

Mix all other ingredients (except oat bran) in a large bowl. Beat for three to four minutes at medium speed with an electric mixer. Add fig mixture and beat until blended. Roll out 20 to 24 balls (or bars), coating them with oat bran. Place balls on a pan and bake at 177°C for 10 minutes or until warm and a bit puffy. Refrigerate to harden.

Gary's Homemade Granola Crunch

(214 calories per half cup serving)

This recipe will give you a boost when camping or hiking.

Ingredients:

1 L oats	120 mL wheat germ
120 mL sunflower seeds	5 mL cinnamon
120 mL chopped pecans	120 mL brown sugar
5 mL salt (optional)	100 mL vegetable oil
55 mL honey	120 mL water
5 mL vanilla	250 mL raisins
250 mL chopped dates	

Mix oats, wheat germ, sunflower seeds, cinnamon, pecans, brown sugar and salt in a large bowl. In another bowl mix the oil, honey, water and vanilla. Pour the liquid mixture over the dry ingredients and mix well. Spread in a pan and bake at 150°C for 50-60 minutes, stirring every 15 minutes. The granola will brown as it cooks. Cool on a wire rack and stir in raisins and dates. Store in an airtight container. Makes 20-24 half-cup servings.

Resources

- *Runners World* magazine, January and June 1994 issues.
- *Backpacker* magazine, September 1994 issue. X

The Art of Playing Head Games

by Ben Kruser

A Beaver leader's job is not always easy. Children come to meetings loaded with the ups and downs of their day. At some point all children will act out their frustrations. When this happens, one way to react can be summarized by the acronym, "I ESCAPE" (something every leader would like to do at times).

This stands for:

Isolate the people in conflict to get the situation back under control.

Explore the child's point of view.

Share your view of what happened.

Connect what happened to past choices and feelings.

Alternative choices: develop them.

Plan for the next time together and agree on trying alternative behaviour.

Enter back into the program.

This method works well in most situations, but some children will still offer resistance and act up if you use discipline. At this point leaders sometimes lose their cool and get dragged into the emotional vortex of the situation. Here are some typical avoidance responses a Beaver may try to use during a conflict, and suggested ways for dealing with them.

- *The child asks rational (but irrelevant) questions that don't relate to the current problem. It is a means to avoid dealing with the situation.*

Bobby Beaver has just hit Billy Beaver. You take Bobby aside to try to find out what caused the misbehaviour. Bobby tries to divert attention away from the situation by asking you: "What time is it? When are we going to play a game?"

Avoid a lecture on the importance of listening. Stick to the topic and don't get side-tracked. Explain your concerns, get both children's views and set proper behaviour limits.

- *The Beaver turns a situation into a power struggle, or tries authority positioning to avoid the issue.*

As you are explaining your concerns, Bobby yells in your face, "I don't have to listen to you. You're not my boss!!"

Resist the temptation to yell back. Stay in control. Set limits for acceptable behaviour and outline choices and consequences of further misbehaviour.

- *The child refuses to listen, or constantly uses bargaining games which test your limits.*

You might hear: "I promise not to hit Billy if I can be first in line." "Okay, I won't do it again, just give me one more chance." "No, I'm not going to sit down."

Once more, set limits and choices. Listen to the child's reasonable alterna-

tives to solving the situation, but don't get into a bargaining match.

- *A Beaver vents emotion, but without real focus.*

In this case, Bobby loses control — stomping feet, crying, yelling, running around, breaking crafts, huffing. Let the child vent his feelings, but not in front of any audience. Once the tantrum has stopped, discuss the problem in a calm tone restating your limits.

- *The child uses intimidation and real physical threats.*

This is the hardest situation to control. A Beaver may be throwing toys, kicking, hitting, biting or running away. The Scouter should get assistance and avoid physical contact with the Beaver if possible. Stay calm, respond to the child's feelings and state the immediate limits to help the child restore self-control. Speak to the youngster's parents about the problem.

At this stage in development, Beaver age children need adults who will both listen to their feelings and set fair limits on their behaviour. Youth must understand that rules apply to everyone and that misbehaviour will not be tolerated without consequences.

What's the best deterrence against idle hands? An active, engaging program works miracles. λ

B&S EMBLEM AD
PICK-UP
PG.36, NOV'95

10th World Moot Mondial

Canadian Contingent Information Update

by Paul Mozsar and Marc Ramsay

From July 15-26, 1996, Rovers will be gathering at the 10th World Moot Mondial in Ransberg, Sweden, about 60 km north of Karlstad. The Moot will provide an excellent opportunity for Rovers aged 18-25 to reflect upon the Scouting spirit and put it into practice. All applicants must be registered for the year preceding the Moot.

The Moot aims to put "Spirit into Action" by letting young people meet and gain some leadership experience through Scouting. It is based on "learning by doing", cultural understanding, outdoor life, democracy and the patrol system. The program will consist of three different activity groups: a four-day expedition, one day activities, and the Moot Place.

After opening ceremonies, all participants will take part in a four day hiking expedition geared towards leadership training, handicrafts and sharing knowledge.

Back on site, participants will enjoy a series of one day activities divided into culture, handicrafts, forums and "journey" categories. The activities, which include water-colour painting, outdoor cooking, rock climbing, wool drying, rafting, survival, pioneering work and pottery will give youth the opportunity to develop new interests.

On Market Day each contingent must organize a cultural activity, run a forum, cook native food, dance, plan a static display or some other project that encourages sharing among participants.

A large tent will form the centre piece of "The Moot Place" which will be open 24 hours a day. In this tent Rovers will find a café, seminars, concerts, as well as varied performances and activities. Participants will be able to participate and/or perform in events. A number of other activities will originate from "The Moot Place." These include campfires, religious services, "light-tracks", meditations, music, games and plays. The opening ceremony, reunion, Market Day party and closing ceremony will centre on this area.

The patrol system will group participants in small, manageable units. Mixed patrols of eight people will include at least two from any one country. The Moot site will be divided into villages containing five patrols per village. Each will have a "Village Place" for meetings and activities, and a village leader. Patrols will be responsible for building their own stoves and cooking their own meals.

The Moot fee is 2500 SEK (approximately C\$500.00). In addition, Canadians will pay a C\$250.00 contingent and a C\$20.00 sponsorship fee. The contingent fee covers contingent wear, contingent display, pre-moot accommodation,

transportation to Karlstad (from the pre-moot meeting place), administration and promotions. The \$20.00 sponsorship fee will help participants from underdeveloped countries to attend the Moot.

Registration deadline is December 31, 1995. Your application must be accompanied by the contingent and sponsorship fees. Your final payment of \$300.00 will be due April 1, 1996.

For those interested in home hospitality, the Swedish Guide and Scout Association will make necessary arrangements if given enough time.

Individual participants must make their own plans to get to and from Sweden. A Canadian contingent meeting place will be set up near Karlstad (the contingent fee will cover transportation to the Moot site from there). For most participants, the best travel deals will involve airfare to Amsterdam or Frankfurt, followed by rail travel (with a Eurorail pass) to Sweden.

More than 45 countries plan to send over 2,900 participants to the 10th World Moot Mondial in Sweden next year. What a great opportunity for young adult Scouting members to experience a truly international event that will leave them many great memories and friends.

For more information, please contact contingent leaders Paul Mozsar or Marc Ramsay at 604-420-6195 (Internet: paul_mozsar@mindlink.bc.ca). ^



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SCOUTER'S 5

A Huron Christmas Story

- In the mid 1600s Canada was covered in forests and inhabited by aboriginal peoples. Father Jean de Brébeuf came to this "new land" to tell the people about God's great love for them. As winter approached a terrible problem faced Brébeuf: how could he tell his Huron friends the story of Jesus?

○ Turban-wearing wisemen riding long-necked camels over shimmering deserts would seem almost ridiculous to Huron natives. "What's a manger? What are sheep? What is frankincense?" some would ask.

○ For weeks Brébeuf prayed. How could he put the story of God coming to earth in human form so natives would understand? After much thought, he wrote a song. (The lyrics to his Huron Carol appear in *Fun at the Pond*, p.21).

○ Instead of your regular Christmas pageant with the baby Jesus lying in a manger, why not stage this Canadian Huron drama? Let your Cubs and Scouts visualize it for themselves. Let them build the simple sets. As you prepare costumes, perhaps a six would like to add native music. A group of Cubs (the angels) could sing the carol in the background.

Here is a paraphrase of Brébeuf's carol.

○ *It was late in the season when the moon rose cold in the winter air. The birds had already fled to the south. The mighty Gitchi Manitou sent singing angels to the people of the earth. So full of shimmering light were these angels that the stars dimmed around them.*

○ *Huron hunters, wandering through the forest, heard the heavenly messengers sing exciting words: "Jesus, your new king is born!"*

continued...

Scouter's 5 Minutes, p.751

Dec. '95

HINTS

○ Planning a winter camping trip this year? Scouter Tim Leitch offers these tips to make yours more pleasurable.

- • Designate a specific individual (e.g. a parent or guardian) who will be home all weekend. Leave this person,
 - a) a detailed description of the camp location and how you may be contacted in the event of an emergency; and
 - b) a list of participants and their home telephone numbers.
- • If your camp departure plans get altered, call and let the designated individual know so he can alert parents. On our last trip we experienced car troubles. Our mid-morning departure was delayed by five hours. As soon as we realized we had problems we called our home contact and parents were advised immediately. When we finally were able to depart we made another call, provided details of our travel plans and estimated arrival time. By doing so, we were greeted by sympathetic parents, rather than parents who were upset because they were worried about the safety of their children.
- • When preparing menus remember that cold temperatures might make cooking difficult with bare hands. Pre-cooked items that can be placed in zip-lock bags and warmed in boiling water are ideal. Prepare the food as much as possible at home. This makes the cold weather camping experience more pleasant. Pasta and meat dishes are nutritious and provide the necessary carbohydrates that youth need in the cold.

Hints, p.661

Dec.'95

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the **leader**

- Don't let your campers drink for one hour before turning in for the night. Having to get up at 3:00 a.m. to go to the washroom in the middle of winter is not fun.
- Winter camping is best done in January and February when the cold weather keeps temperatures well below freezing. Usually only mitts and toques get wet. Late spring camps in March often result in children getting wet clothes during the higher daytime temperatures.
- Each child should bring extra mitts, toques and socks. Bring along your collection of lost and found winter mitts and hats. At least one Cub is bound to forget his.
- Although one-burner stoves are excellent for summer and fall camping trips, often they don't work well in winter's extreme cold. For winter camping we use two-burner propane stoves fuelled by 25 lb. tanks.
- Make sure everyone knows what to do to get warm. Use winter camping experience not to test endurance but as an enjoyable learning experience that youth can remember for years to come.
- If conditions deteriorate, don't hesitate to call the trip off. A trip called off at the last minute due to poor weather makes leaders appear wise and responsible to parents.

— *Tim Leitch works with the 10th Whitby Troop, Ontario.*

Hints, p.662

The hunters searched the forest for this peace child, but they couldn't find Manitou's infant son in their village chief's lodge. Neither was he in any of the elaborate lodges of other distinguished leaders. Instead he lay in the broken down home of a poor, but honest, Huron family. The mother had wrapped the infant in a tattered rabbit skin — the best one she owned.

What a beautiful baby!

As the hunter braves drew near, the angels reappeared and sang, "Jesus, your new king is born!"

The hunters had never seen anything so incredible. Light shone from his face with a stunning brilliance. They had no fear; all they sensed was Manitou's love and affection.

Suddenly, great chiefs from all over the land arrived to pay homage to this child. They knelt before him and gave his mother gifts of the finest beaver and fox pelts.

What did Manitou mean by sending his own child?

The baby was a gift to the Huron people. Kneel before him and worship. Watch him as he grows. Learn his ways of peace. When he points to a new path, you can be sure that the way is true and right. Manitou sent him so the forest people wouldn't lose their way.

Use the evening to discuss the real meaning of Christmas. Discuss how to put the Scouting Law and Promise into action over the weeks ahead.

A Christmas Thought

Thank you Lord for all the fun and games we can have at Christmas. Thank you for my family, and friends, and please help us not to forget amongst all the enjoyment, that Christmas is really about celebrating Your birth.

— *Hazel Hallgren, Red Deer, AB.*

Scouter's 5 Minutes, p.752

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

by Bob Bareham

On behalf of Supply Services staff here at the National Office and members of the Supply Services Committee, best wishes for a safe, happy and healthy holiday season.

Just in Time for Christmas is the title of our latest **Leader** magazine insert. This year, we have a new selection of interesting gift items and stocking stuffers, all at great prices. Check out the insert in the November **Leader** (or pick one up at your local Scout Shop) for some great shopping suggestions.

The Beavers Imax Video is an adventure story about a beaver family in the Canadian wilderness. Learn about their life and amazing survival skills. The video provides an entertaining, 31 minute show at an excellent price (\$29.95).

HERE'S A BONE TO PICK

A dinosaur kit would inspire the imagination of any youngster. Our Tyrannosaurus Rex and Brachiosaurus kits are favourites. Both come with instructions, bones, eggs and a poster. Either dinosaur would make a great gift (\$16.95 each).

Turn the mad scientists in your house loose with one of these skill-developing kits. The "Electric Motor Mini Lab", the "Electric Bell Mini Lab", the "Solar Energy Mini Lab" and the "Electric Magnetic Mini Lab" kits are available for \$11.95 each.

Looking for a unique, low-cost stocking stuffer? Light up the darkness around your house with a high quality, miniature key fob lantern or night light. The mini Coleman lantern key fob comes with batteries. The night lights plug directly into any standard electrical outlet. Both items make unique and low-cost stocking stuffer gifts.

The "Little Camper" sleeping bag is one of our best all-round buys this year. Filled with Hollowfiber insulating material, this rectangular shaped bag has a durable nylon outer shell and features a temperature rating of ISO/32. Measuring 145 cm x 60 cm, the bag is priced at only \$24.95.

Mom, dad or that teenager in your house will appreciate receiving one of our great 3-in-1 Sports/Duffle Bags designed exclusively for Scouts Canada. The bags are multi-purpose, high quality, built tough and priced right — \$59.95.

HONOURS & AWARDS

The long-awaited *Guide to the Honours and Awards of Scouts Canada* booklet is available at Scout Shops across the country. The Guide has two sections: Formal Recognition and Alternative Recognition.

The "Formal Recognition" section explains both how you can, and why you should, nominate someone for an honour or an award. The "Alternative Recognition" section provides ideas for showing appreciation to outstanding members.

Henry Ward Beecher said, "There is not a person we employ who does not, like ourselves, desire recognition, praise, gentleness, forbearance, patience." The *Guide to the Honours and Awards of Scouts Canada* will help you through the recognition process. It will give you ideas on how to build appreciation right into your monthly Scouting routine. You don't have to be an experienced Scouter or a polished writer to nominate someone for recognition or an award. The first step involves purchasing a copy of this new guide — available in English and French for \$2.95. \

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 Woodstock District, ON40.00
 Chateauguay District, PQ.....43.81
 St. Andrew's Group Committee, PQ.....35.00
 Kenneth A. Mader, NS100.00
 National Council Meeting
 (May 1995) 666.28
 Trenton District Council, ON34.36
 1st Hagersville Group, ON.....52.75
 Christ Church United &
 1st Clarkson Scout Group, ON92.75
 Lethbridge District, AB200.00
 1st Hampton Scouts, ON108.75
 West Hants District, NS88.84
 Riverview Group Committee, NB118.15
 Fruitbelt District, ON86.26
 Cowichan Valley District, BC45.50
 Ontario Provincial Executive Board....378.00
 Cheryl Fitcyk, ON25.00
 Moncton District Beaveree, NB125.39
 2nd Pouch Cove Group, NF50.00
 1st Christ Church Group, NF113.63
 Tri-County District Scouters Club, NS ..169.69
 Regional Rover Moot
 (Camp Skeeter), BC200.00
 1st Evergreen Beavers,
 Cubs & Scouts, AB37.50
 1st Milford Group, ON.....70.87
 Eliot District, PE.....42.55
 Canadian Badgers Club
 — 18th Annual Montreal
 Swap Meet & Auction PQ.....1,623.20
 Parkland District Scouts.....22.56
 BC/Yukon Provincial Jamboree
 (Frontier '95) 734.32
 South Shore District Cubs, PQ30.74
 Burns Lake Group, BC135.00
 Smithers Group, BC.....46.65
 Southern Alberta Region.....165.89
 Central Escarpment Region,
 ON (Togo Project)5,003.61
 1993 New Brunswick
 Gilwell Reunion202.00
 1994 New Brunswick
 Gilwell Reunion115.00
 Maria Paskalakis, ON15.00
 Cape Breton Regional Council, NS15.00
 187th Toronto Beaver Colony, ON270.00

Scoutrees for Canada

North Cariboo District, BC.....349.39
 Kenneth Sykes, ON.....50.00
 20th Golden Hawks Group
 Committee, AB213.30
 Comox Valley District, BC79.09

1st Forestburg, AB.....24.30
 Central Alberta Region243.25
 North Saskatchewan District2,676.93
 South Lake Simcoe District,
 ON (1993).....289.09
 Port Arthur District, ON (1993)1,165.01
 Ontario Provincial Council (1994)
 Elgin District2,096.39
 North Halton District.....288.98
 Woodstock District598.04
 Port Colborne District784.08
 Fort William District1,890.82
 Nottawasaga District.....929.01
 Wallaceburg District
 (additional) 18.75
 1st Longlac Group47.55
 Thames Valley District.....620.61
 Mississippi District178.65
 Victoria County649.87
 West Durham District578.75
 Thornhill Summitt339.20
 1st Manitouwadge Group63.60
 Presqu'île District436.71
 Pine Ridge District697.26
 1st Chapleau Group176.73
 Mississauga District
 (additional) 133.66
 1st Minden Group268.80
 Ganaraska District86.29
 South Lake Simcoe District1,159.32
 Owasco District556.85
 Yellow Briar District.....45.15
 Maitland District (additional)76.17
 Opeongo District.....429.73
 1st Elliot Lake District83.40
 Ontario Provincial Council (1995)
 1st Lucknow Cubs85.50
 1st Webbwood Group83.08
 Nipigon Scouts38.25
 Napanee Valley District162.22
 Lynn Valley District634.83
 Prince Edward District193.43
 Schreiber Group8.25
 Chatham District.....567.09
 1st Elliot Lake Group165.82
 Oshawa District1,846.22
 Ingersoll District405.64
 4th Atikokan Group.....405.73
 1st Dryden Group125.67
 1st Kincardine Scouts98.07
 Rideau Lakes District1,163.44
 Blue Mountain District630.50
 Trenton District999.95
 Milton District.....400.19
 1st Emo Scouts42.97
 Ganaraska District259.76
 1st Marathon Group252.15
 Split Rock District631.92

Petawawa District289.29
 Brant District633.15
 1st Sioux Lookout Group275.16
 Haldimand District845.28
 Orillia District685.35
 York Rouge District2,535.30
 5th Fort Frances Scouts156.45
 Niagara District500.95
 Wellington District1,146.31
 Kent District1,031.01
 South Waterloo District1,011.41
 Sydenham District1,775.50
 1st St. Mary's Scouts94.37
 Stratford District782.22
 Champlain District1,256.58
 North Waterloo District2,082.79
 1st Cochenour Group144.42
 Mississauga Region2,255.78
 Opeongo District527.04
 Saugeen East291.49

Memorials

.....Total: \$399.00
 Rideau Lakes District, ON
 In memory of Lyle Haskins
 Edward Attwell, ON
 In memory of Lyle Haskins
 Edythe Bishop, ON
 In memory of Robert Whitehead
 Sheila E. Stirling, ON
 In memory of Robert Whitehead
 Elgin District, ON
 In memory of Robert Whitehead
 Northern Region, BC
 In memory of Mrs. Barbara Rathbone
 Mississauga Gilwellians, ON
 In memory of Webb Anderson
 of Goshen, Indiana
 Eldon Knudson
 and Walter Busenius, AB
 In memory of Greg Clark
 John and Barbara Pettifer, ON
 In Memory of Ed Gunner
 Elgin District, ON
 In Memory of Harry Stirling
 Greater Victoria Region, BC
 In Memory of Gordon Dalsin

This list includes donations processed between March 31 and September 25, 1995. Donations recorded after September 25 will be acknowledged in a spring issue. Scoutrees for Canada donations represent the 15% of Scoutrees for Canada proceeds designated for the Canadian Scout Brotherhood Fund. X