

the leader

MARCH 1996

VOLUME 26, NO. 7



Committed to Kids!

PROTECTING YOUTH • SPIRITUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Let's Make Scouting Safe for Children

Children face bewildering challenges and obstacles as they mature into adulthood. For almost nine decades Scouting has helped youth through these sometimes difficult years giving them the tools and experience to enjoy life's many pleasures.

Recently Canadians have heard more about threats posed by dangerous individuals through various forms of sexual, physical and emotional abuse. Peer pressure, drugs and employment concerns can eat away at fragile, young personalities. Abuse by adults who prey on children can add to 'normal' stresses, causing permanent damage.

As responsible leaders, we can help those in our programs who suffer from neglect and abuse. We can also be certain that the "Scouting environment" is safe and encouraging: a much needed tonic for many young people. Part of our role and responsibility involves becoming more knowledgeable of these realities; then we can draw up some sort of plan.

Scouts Canada is working hard to train leaders so they have the skills to help children who may suffer from abuse. The Movement is also trying to screen out high risk individuals before they can become leaders.

Read All About It

A feature article in this issue deals with the many faces of child abuse.



Excellent leaders make Scouting fun.

Not just focused narrowly on sexual concerns, the piece takes a broader look at the issues. The article starts by defining the many forms of abuse, then gives practical, thoughtful examples for both inexperienced and well seasoned leaders to consider. It also

provides tips so Scouters can avoid situations where their motives and honourable intentions might be questioned. We'll follow up next month with advice on how to report suspected abuse.

Let's not give up showing open affection (e.g. a hug for an excellent effort). Young people need adults to show appropriate care and interest to grow into healthy adults. But we must temper this encouragement with common sense, wisdom and respect. Let's become aware, learn what we can and continue to do our best to

provide a secure environment. We'd like to hear from you about this feature piece, your experiences, ideas for follow-up and general reaction to material of this nature. Write, fax or e-mail your thoughts to us.



We're Looking for Writers!



Have you ever thought about writing for **the Leader**? Now's your chance.

We're looking for people to share new and interesting program ideas. With the Scouting year over half finished, look back and tell us what activities, crafts, games or themes your Scouts, Cubs and Beavers loved most of all. What holds the

interest of final year Scouts? Tell us your new ways to enjoy the outdoors.

You don't have to be Shakespeare to write for **the Leader**. Send us your best ideas or call before you start. We'll give you direction. We *want* to put your best program ideas in print.

Write on!

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The Canadian Leader Magazine is published 10 times a year by Canyouth Publications Ltd.
PO Box 5112,
Stn LCD-Merivale,
Ottawa ON K2C 3H4
Phone: (613) 224-5131.
Fax: (613) 224-3571.
E-mail: leader@scouts.ca

Yearly subscription:
registered members
Scouts Canada \$7
non-members \$10
outside Canada \$18

The Leader serves as a program resource for Scouters and other adults who work with young people.
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Editorial contributions are made on a voluntary basis.
Unsolicited submissions welcome.

Advertising Policy: Advertisement of a product or service does not indicate endorsement by publishers.

Publishers do not assume any responsibility by warranty or otherwise with respect to products advertised.
The Leader is printed on paper containing 50% recycled fibre.
Publications mail registration #2405.
ISSN 0711-5377

Cover photos, clockwise from upper right, Paul Ritchi, Scouts Canada archives.



Photo: Ruth Dubeau

the leader

The Canadian Leader Magazine

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Nature is fragile

page 4

Waste Not, Want Not

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

by Allen Macartney

Scouting groups all over Canada are active recyclers, and little wonder. A clean environment means beautiful hiking trails, pristine canoe waterways and clean campsites.

Recycling isn't anything new or unusual. It's a natural process in nature. Each fall, leaves drop to the ground. No one rakes them up. They decompose and return their nutrients to the soil. Over time, with the help of bacteria and earth worms, the leaves turn into a very rich natural fertilizer that encourages new growth in the forest.

Plan a reduce, reuse and recycle theme night for your group. Start with a discussion about ways how we can help save the earth from pollution and unnecessary garbage. Do your kids have any ideas? Ask them. Examples might include: write on both sides of a sheet of paper, use a grass mower with a mulcher, ask parents to walk to nearby places rather than drive.

Take Out Your Anger

Cubs from the 6th Campbellton Pack, NB, received an interesting landfill lesson when they placed four cereal boxes in a large garbage bag. The boxes filled the bag. Then they flattened the boxes by pouncing all over them. What satisfaction! Suddenly the bag was almost empty and could hold much more. With tin cans the Cubs cut off both ends, then flattened them. If your area doesn't recycle cans, flattening them would reduce the amount of land it requires to bury the metal.

Next these Cubs made miniature totem poles from cardboard tubes brought from home. Using a scrap of wood for the base, Cubs glued several tubes together then painted colourful, Native designs on them.

Heavyweights Loose

For one week your Scouts or Venturers might weigh every bag of garbage that leaves their homes. Compare these figures with each other at the next meeting. For the second week, the youth should talk with their family about what can be reduced, reused or recycled and separate the garbage into different piles to weigh. Then decide how much you've saved from landfills by practising the 3 Rs.

Adopt-a-Park

Beavers from the 2nd Coquitlam Colony, BC, have made neighbourhood clean-up a regular part of their weekly meetings. They've adopted a park bordering their meeting hall and help keep it beautiful. Not only does it instill community pride in the young children, but it makes them more aware of their role in keeping things clean. (Before getting involved in a clean-up program, make sure you discuss safe handling methods.)

Cubs and Scouts might want to organize a monthly yard clean-up around the building where they meet. Sort out any recyclable garbage, then make a chart describing what you found. Discuss how people could re-

duce the waste. Share your findings, if possible, in a school project.

Make Recycled Paper

This activity, always a favourite with children no matter what their age, is perfect for a spring or summer camp.

You will need:

- a stack of old newspapers
- buckets or bowls
- water
- several old hand beaters
- pieces of screen or felt.

Tear newspaper pages into 2 cm strips. Fill your buckets with one part paper and two parts water. Let the mixture sit for several hours. Use the hand beaters to mix the paper fibres into a pulp or mush. Take a handful of pulp and place it on a piece of screen or felt mounted over some newspapers to soak up the water. Mold the pulp to the size of the sheet of paper you want. Press the pulp firmly to squeeze out the water; a rolling pin might help. Let the paper dry over one or two days. Cut the edges to square them off or leave them ragged for a more rustic, homemade look.

This project makes extra thick paper, perfect for cards and mobiles.



Photo: Allen Macartney

Gather as many boxes, milk containers and tubes together as possible. What can you build with them?

Feed the Worms

Plan a field trip to a community recycling or composting facility. Watch how they separate and handle the material. Scouts might enjoy building a composter for their backyard.

Make a poster or chart for home on what can go into a composter. The more food scraps you put into your composter, the happier (and fatter) your garden worms will be.

Treasure Seekers

Ask your Beavers, Cubs and Scouts to look around their homes and bring to the next meeting one or two items of 'junk' that might make an interesting craft. When they arrive, lay out all the objects on the floor. Talk about each one: what it's made from, where we use it and how long it takes to rot — if ever. How can we make better use of our resources? Perhaps there's a much less wasteful way to enjoy the benefits of this product.

What can your kids make from the 'junk'? Let them decide. Cloth, cardboard, tubes, sticks, blocks, boxes are easily transformed into puzzles, napkins, napkin holders, bingo pieces, wallpaper and waste baskets. Large boxes might be turned into miniature space ships.

Recycle Your Toys

Mount a used toy drive in your neighbourhood and donate them to local daycare centres or needy families. Not only will this share the enjoyment of old toys, but it will also raise Scouting's profile in the community.

Make a Garbage Garden

Plant a garden that rots! Sound fun? This project will show Cubs and Scouts



Photo: Paul Ritchie

It's interesting to learn how nature practises recycling. It also offers many opportunities to explore outside.

what garbage breaks down and what will be around forever. You need a plastic bag, a nylon stocking, a 100% cotton cloth or sock, a piece of newspaper, foil wrap, an apple core, a scrap of wool and a plastic cup.

Dig a hole about 10 cm deep for each piece of garbage. Wet each hole. Plant your garbage and cover it with dirt. Mark each hole so you know what is buried where.

After 30 days you can dig up the garbage and inspect your treasures from the past. What rots (biodegrades) quickly and what doesn't? What does this tell you about garbage? What does this tell you about no-trace camping? What items should you always take out of the woods with you?

Recycled Envelopes

Each year Cubs, Scouts and Venturers from Yarmouth, NS, recycle calendars. Not only does it help the environment, but it also makes a colourful means to send a letter. Here's how to create yours.

1. Make a cardboard pattern of the drawing on this page. Cut it out.
2. Lay the cardboard pattern on an old calendar page and trace it with a fine marker.
3. Remove the pattern and cut out your envelope.
4. Fold the paper along the dotted lines and tape the two sides and the bottom flap together.
5. Place a white sticky label on the envelope's front for the address, put in your letter, fold top flap and tape shut.

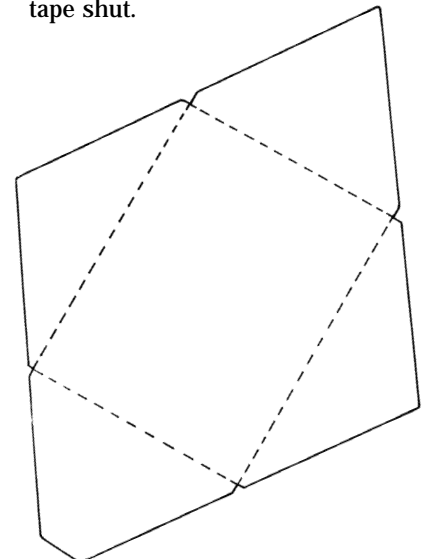


Photo: Dean Post

Composting is both easy and fascinating. Scout and Venturers might want to build their own compost container from wood.

Oscar the Grouch Puppets

Nova Scotian Beavers from the 5th Digby Colony made Oscar the Grouch finger puppets during their recycle theme night. Each puppet requires a little black film canister with a grey lid, a green pom-pom (2.5 cm) and two googly eyes.

1. Take the top off each canister and turn them upside down.
2. Glue the green pom-pom (Oscar the Grouch) on the bottom of the canister.
3. Glue the cover on Oscar's head. (See diagram)
4. Glue on Oscar's eyes.



Now slide your finger into the trash can and let Oscar tell a recycling story. According to Scouter Alice Dugas, the craft led to an interesting discussion about picking up litter in the neighbourhood.

'Trashy' Games

Many Beaver and Cub games are easily adapted to this theme. "Duck, duck, goose" can change to "Trash, trash, can." Get each six or patrol to think up a competitive game involving trash or recycling. What about a scavenger hunt around your meeting area but looking for only certain types of garbage? Assign higher points for different types of trash.

Recycle Song

Sue Parr-Jourdain of Deux Montagnes, PQ, wrote this recycle song for her group. Sing it to the tune of "Row, row, row your boat."

Pick, pick, pick it up
Put it in a can,
Please don't litter, it makes us bitter
Don't dirty up our land.

Re, re, recycle
Paper, plastic and glass
We're the solution, to stop pollution
It will be a blast!

Patricia Anne Gouthro of Windsor Junction, NS, changed the words of the "Five Little Pumpkins" song to "Five little garbage cans sitting on the curb." Her Beavers joined in for a rousing chorus.

Get involved in some community project this spring. By helping *Pitch In Canada* or planting a Scoutree, you'll gain a better understanding of nature and experience it close-up. ^

Program Links

Cubs: Recycling Badge, World Conservation Badge
Scouts: Citizen Badge, World Conservation Badge, Troop/Individual Specialty Badge.
Venturers: World Conservation Award, Service Activity Award.

Resources

- *Recycling: It's Everybody's Job*, National Geographic video (16 mins.)
- *The Canadian Junior Green Guide*, by Teri Degler and Pollution Probe, McClelland & Stewart.
- Environment Canada has a number of very helpful, free publications. Call 1-800-668-6767.

NEED ENVIRONMENTAL MONEY?

If your environmental project needs financial assistance why not apply to Scouts Canada's Environmental Fund? See the article, "How Much Money Do You Want?" on p.25 for details.

DID YOU KNOW...?

- The average Canadian throws away a ton of garbage each year.
- There's a new "biodegradable" plastic that breaks down leaving a plastic dust that may be harmful to the environment.
- Recycled plastic reduces pollution because it is made into carpets, car interiors, door mats and flower pots.
- Recycled paper not only saves trees but it can become ceiling tiles, kitty litter and cardboard boxes.
- Recycled aluminum cans are shredded, melted down and formed into more drink cans, engine parts, tools and computer components.
- If your cat or dog lives for 15 years, it will use 5,475 cans of food. That's about 219 kg of steel.

Photo: Paul Ritchie



"Did you know millions of worms live in the soil?" They eat their way through apple cores and orange rinds, turning them into fresh new earth. Unfortunately plastic bags and styrofoam just sit in the ground for hundreds of years unchanged.

Tiddlyclips: The Exciting Recycle Game!

by Colin Wallace

One way to encourage the recycling habit is to start on small projects and work up to bigger ones as you gather momentum. For example, instead of trying to figure how to build an artificial reef with thousands of old tires, think about how you could recycle those colourful little plastic bread bag clips.

For starters, you can recycle them by playing "Tiddlyclips" (tiddlywinks) with them. How? Use fine sandpaper to remove any rough spots; bevel all the way around the edges. (The bevel helps lift the tiddlyclip off the flat playing surface when you "tiddle" one clip with another.) Store your tiddlyclips in a 35 mm film container; it can also serve as the goal cup. You might want to glue a heavy washer inside the bottom of the film container to keep your goal steady by lowering its centre of gravity.

You can also use the clips to make a travel chess set. With a fine point permanent marker, write the symbol of each piece on both sides of a clip and store the pieces flat in a pocket-sized, ziploc bag along with a folded board drawn on cardboard. A checkers set is easy, and what about dominoes?

Capture the Clip

"Capture the Clip" is an ever-popular game. What?! You've never heard of it? Here's how to play. Patrols must set up a goal line — two or three metres of cord stretched out tightly at eye level in their territory. Each cord has 10 plastic clips on it, and each clip has a bright ribbon stapled to it (or tied through a hole drilled in it). Other patrols must try to capture their opponents' clips without being caught. You can make this a training session in stealth by adding small bells to the taut goal line so any heavy handling will set off an alarm.

Use clips to keep track of points awarded during inspections or to count goals scored in games. It's easier than trying to write down everything.

A Clip for All Seasons

Keep a cup handy in your kitchen to save your clips. When you go grocery shopping, take a handful of clips in your pocket or purse. A plastic clip is easier than a wire twist to seal plastic bags, and you can use the same clips over again.

During a campout, use clips as pot and pan scrapers. They make great, scratchless cleaning tools for counters or stove tops. Dampen the surface and add baking soda if necessary.

Clips are excellent for keeping track of little parts.



When setting out on a canoe trip with a roll of duct or masking tape, put a clip on the end of the tape so you'll be able to find it easily. If mosquitoes are nearby, this will really save time — and blood!

As spring approaches, are your Scouts, Venturers and Rovers starting to work around bicycles or cars? Clips are excellent for keeping track of little

parts. Simply snap the clip over washers or nuts and you won't lose them as easily. If you're wiring up a stereo sound system, a clip on each wire will help you keep track of which wire plugs into which hole.

Only 287 days left until Christmas. Just so you're prepared, remember this: Keep small lights in just the right place on your Christmas tree by attaching a clip to the tree branch. The clips themselves are quite decorative.

If you staple a long clip to a piece of white bleach bottle plastic, you'll have a neat reuseable name tag you can easily attach to and remove from the button of your shirt pocket.

Ideas Abounding

Butterfly gardeners (see p.15) can use clips to provide drainage in the bottom of their plant pots or to tag their flowers. Take two clips, forcing one slot into the other to form an X-shape. Use as many pairs as you need to cover the bottom of your plant pot before adding soil.

Use plastic clips as mini-shingles for a doll house, tiles for a mosaic, guitar picks, flat bases for stand-up models, or small spacers and shims. I bet your Cubs and Scouts will be able to dream up even more ways to reuse and recycle these ubiquitous clips. X

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



Photo: Mark McDermaid

Before your next outdoor adventure, make a list of ten ways your pack or troop can use clips. Don't leave home without them!

It's Sugaring Off Time!

When Is a Sugar Bush Like a Spider Web?

by Ruth Dubeau

Last year our Beaver colony visited a maple sugar farm. The sugar bush looked as if a giant spider lived there. Between the trees clear plastic tubes crisscrossed the air like an enormous web. What a mystery.

Our hosts, Scouter Dave and Audrey Matthews, who run this farm, explained that the tubing links every tree. A pump draws the sap from the trees into the hoses and into a large storage tank. This method triples production over more traditional gathering methods. When our Beavers looked closely and put their ears to the tubes they could see and hear the sap flowing.

"It tastes like water!"

Dave showed us how he drilled holes in the trees and inserted a plastic spout connected to the tubing. Our Beavers tasted sap as it came from the tree and were surprised at the watery taste.

As we walked through the bush looking for signs of wildlife, Dave

pointed out bear teeth marks in the plastic tubing and claw marks on trees. He told us how cuts like these could allow harmful insects into the tree. Eventually the pests could kill it. We looked closely for woodpeckers (unsuccessfully) which feed on these insects. It's like the



A glacier once covered this sugar bush. It dropped this boulder off thousands of years ago. What a great Beaver perch.

circle of life spoken of in Disney's Lion King movie: trees bring insects which attract birds, which eat the insects and then nest in its branches.

Our hike through the bush ended at the sugar shack where we split into two groups. While one group tasted maple taffy poured out on the snow, the other watched how sap was put into holding tanks, evaporated and graded by colour. This group also saw maple candy being poured into molds.

Are you unable to visit a sugar bush?

Hold your own sugaring off party.

With a few simple adaptations the following program ideas would be perfect for Cubs too. This theme evening makes a great preparation for the spring Scoutrees planning program.

Canadian Heritage

Maple trees grow all over the world, even in Siberia.

A maple must be at least 50-60 years old for tapping, but even at this age it's still young. Some maples live to be 400 years old!

Pioneers tapped trees as a way to get a nutritious sweetener for their porridge, tea and even bread. Natives showed them how to do it by making a hole in a maple tree and sticking a small branch into it. The sap would run down the branch and drip into a small birchbark container. After collecting the sap in large pots, they

Before metal buckets, native people collected sap in birchbark containers.



Photos: Ruth Dubeau

boiled it for hours until little more than the essence was left. It takes 40 litres of sap to make one litre of syrup. Then they stored it in containers and kept it for very special occasions.

Maple Balloon Burst

Give each child a balloon that contains a small picture of a leaf with its name written on it. Make two identical leaves for as many Beavers as you have in the colony (i.e. if you have 20 Beavers make up matching pairs of ten different leaves). Put one leaf in each balloon. On a signal, Beavers must break the balloons without using hands and feet. (Beaver hugs work well.) Your children then have to find their leaf shape and scurry to find the Beaver with the matching one.

For Cubs, adapt this game by putting half a coded message on each of the matching leaves. Cubs should first find their leaf partner then work together to solve the mystery.

Tree Puzzle Relay

Take a large picture of a tree or forest. (You might have to draw one on bristol board.) Mount the picture on cardboard backing to give it extra stiffness. Cut it out using a sharp utility knife so the number of pieces equals the number in your colony.

Play the game as a relay. Have a pile of tree puzzle pieces in front of each lodge. Children must pick up one piece, run to the end of the hall and find its place in the puzzle on the floor. Each Beaver must then run back and tag the next person in line. Continue until the puzzle once again forms a picture.



"This is delicious!" There's nothing like freshly twisted maple taffy.

Maple Leaf Craft

This craft makes a good gathering activity. Prepare by making a large brown drawing of a tree and cardboard leaf patterns for several kinds of trees. (The best sap producers are the sugar maple, red maple, silver maple and black maple.) Provide construction paper, pencils, scissors, tape and markers for the Beavers. They have to choose a leaf pattern, cut it out of construction paper, print their name on it and tape it to the tree drawing.

Use the time to talk about forest life and how spring begins another growth cycle.

Word Play

How many words can you make from the letters contained in "tall maple tree." Start with the word "a" and try to make 20 more.

Plant a Maple Tree

Give each child several maple seed keys to plant in a small flower pot. (Get the seeds from a local tree nursery.) If possible, keep the plants in a window and water them each week during the meeting. The seeds should sprout in several weeks. Ask the youth to measure and record the growth each week. Can they notice any growing spurts? When your colony or pack meets again in the early fall, plant the trees outside.

Planting Song

Sing this song as you plant your seeds. (Tune: *I'm a Little Teapot*)

I'll plant a little seed in the dark,
dark ground

Out comes the yellow sun,
big and round,
Down comes the cool rain,
soft and slow
Up comes the little seed,
grow, grow, grow.

(Ask the Beavers to make up their own actions.)

Maple Syrup Taffy

A sugaring off party wouldn't be complete without tasting maple syrup taffy. Make it by heating up a litre of maple syrup, then pour it in little zigzag patterns on clean, fresh snow.

If you're holding your party inside, bring several large baking trays of snow in from the outside. Prepare the snow by rolling it flat and firm. Then give each child a popsicle stick to twirl the cooling taffy onto after it has sat on the snow several seconds. ^

Sappy Questions



- Does tapping a tree hurt it? No. Tapping removes less than 10% of a tree's sap, so it has little effect. Some maples have been tapped for over 100 years.
- When does sap run? "Run" is a poor choice of word to describe the speed. Sap flows at different rates through the day. It can drip at 175 drops per minute, then slow to 10 per minute, then stop for several hours if the temperature drops. It all depends on the outside temperature.
- What is sap? Sap is a watery liquid that brings nourishing food as it flows through trees. An average maple tree yields up to 90 litres a year at harvest time. This great quantity makes less than two litres of syrup.
- What maple tree does the leaf on the Canadian flag come from? It comes from the sugar maple. This tree is the champion sap producer of all. Its sap produces more syrup than any other maple.

— Ruth Dubeau works with the 1st Ferris Beaver Colony, ON.

Recycled Scouters, Or... *I Don't Want to Be a Dinosaur*

by Lynn Johnson

"Prolonged exposure to solely administrative roles can be dangerous to your usefulness."

When we're appointed to an administrative role in Scouting, the membership card should carry the above warning.

Why (please tell me) do we pay lip service by saying the youth and section leaders are the all-important base to the Movement, then funnel those we consider the best trained and most effective into jobs where they make no meaningful contact with either? As a matter of policy we sometimes discourage them from doing section work even as a side hobby.

Of course I can recite the reasons for this reality. We put them in these jobs to influence a greater number of people for good. We try to keep them in one position to increase efficiency and prevent burnout.

Hey, that's perfectly good thinking, as far as it goes. Unfortunately, once in administration, training or committees, these talented people tend to stay there, doing a series of rather similar tasks (or even the same one) over and over. Their job titles often carry prestige. The volunteers form little groups of like-minded friends. New Scouters look at them in awe, wanting to progress to their stage.

Future Shock Today

Meanwhile, children and their lifestyles and education are changing. The charming innocents I led in 1965 were a lot different from the youth I deal with today. Cubs I work with now worry about AIDS, drugs, sexual molestation, war, cancer, child abuse and divorce. Some are struggling to adjust to our

language and culture. Many do not have an extended family. Others have what might be called the over-extended family: complicated multiple re-mariages, visiting rights, and important adults hostile to each other. Attitudes, songs and jokes we once took for granted may now be seen as racist, sexist or quaint. Even hero-worship is fraught with problems today as the media re-

lost touch with many things. Before making decisions affecting that section now, I would want to talk with current leaders and with youth.

Recharge Through Renewal

Perhaps we should arrange and encourage set periods for necessary renewal of Scouting leaders. Many of our jobs have specific lengths of service.

Why couldn't a retiring district commissioner spend the next year as an Akela before taking his skills to some committee? Why can't a committee member become a Troop Service Scouter, visiting a number of troops and Troop Scouters? After three years of adult wrangling, it might be soul-refreshing to get back to the real reason the Movement exists — to build up youth. Or alternatively, perhaps it would be beneficial for all Scouting administrators to spend an hour a month with a youth section as part of their job description.

Why not celebrate a change of role by re-taking a training course? I took my Pack Woodbadge Part 2 course in 1965 and again in 1971. In this short period, there were massive changes in content and philosophy. I gained enormously from both. The Part 2's we run now are very different again.

Let's enhance and update our Scouting experience by returning to the grassroots. Let's put the FUN back into our Scouting lives by returning to the children. Let's allow them to teach us how to play again! X

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



Getting back to youth is soul-refreshing.

Photo: Jim Goat

veal ugly details of the private lives of prominent men and women.

The public education system now has borrowed many of Scouting's most prominent and ground-breaking features. These include,

- the importance of learning through play
- emphasis on the outdoors
- a system of rewards.

Scouting has changed and continues to evolve to meet this challenge, but it is a tremendously complex and ceaselessly restless situation. In the almost four years I've been absent from direct contact with the Beaver program, I've



We're Glad You're Joining the CJ'97 Program!

by Jay Campbell

The first steps I took on the CJ'97 site at Boulevard Lake in Thunder Bay were on a cold November afternoon. The sky was overcast. With the bite of winter, gusty wind cut through my thin fall jacket. Even as I shivered in the cold I could feel the joy and hear the laughter of thousands of Scouts and Venturers. Thunder Bay is truly a great site for a jamboree!

As Program Coordinator I looked at the park from a programming perspective. The more I discovered about the site, the more I realized CJ'97 will be an opportunity to relate jamboree activities to our week-to-week Scouting program. When I think of all the exciting things our youth are involved with across Canada I see opportunities for fun, challenge and new ways of getting dirty at this spectacular site!

Past, Present and Future

The history and future of Canada are steeped in our natural resources. The part of Canada found north of Lake Superior ties our ecology, history, economy and nation together. Even as the initial wave of European explorers, trappers and Canadian voyageurs started to experience the wilderness of "Rupert's Land", the First Nations were showing them how to survive in the unforgiving climate of the "True North Strong and Free."

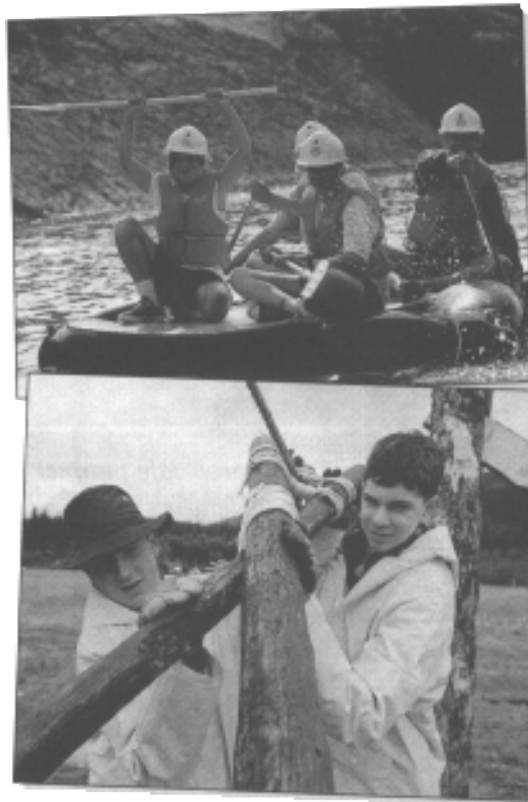
As I walked the CJ'97 site I thought, "What an ideal place to bring the past, present and future of Scouting together!" Excitement stirred deep inside me. At CJ'97 expect to experience a similar thrill as young people from across Canada gather for an incredible jamboree extravaganza.

Ch-ch-ch-choices!

Your *CJ'97 Program Booklet* (obtained by contacting your local Scout office) will boast eight exciting program themes: Lumbering, Fishing, Communications, Transportation, Fur Trade, Geology, Water and Heritage. Each of these theme areas continue to hold an important place in the day-to-day life of Thunder Bay residents.

Within each theme you will choose from a multitude of unique and challenging activities. These include,

- radical rappelling
- monumental mountain biking
- rafting
- snorkelling
- lapidary
- photography
- triathlon
- logging games
- advanced technology projects
- notorious night hiking.



Whether taking part in a rafting adventure or trying out some pioneering skills, there's nothing like a jamboree!

Opportunities will abound for off-site, high adventure camping, hiking and mountain biking, as well as a chance to enjoy northern fishing.

What about a visit to Old Fort William? Scouts and Venturers will take part in adventures in and around a reconstructed, fully functioning fortress. Many will be able to dress in period costumes from the late 1800's.

Have you ever wanted to experience the thrill of mining for amethyst? At CJ'97 you might find your fortune!

Never before have Scouts and Venturers been able to choose from so many program activities at a Canadian jamboree. CJ'97 will not only provide incredible adventure memories to savour for a lifetime, but, with careful planning, it will give youth some exciting activity ideas and skills that can be developed when they return home.

The Thunder Dome

You won't be able to miss this attraction! The **Thunder Dome** will be the heartbeat of the Jamboree — the chief gathering point. Located on the west side of Boulevard Lake, just follow your ears and eyes to the action. It'll resemble a small carnival. Here you'll be able to swap badges, participate in environmental games, "pig-out" on fast food, test your Scouting knowledge, swim, make leather crafts, meet astronauts, sit in a jet, purchase your jamboree souvenirs, and much more.

Just Do It!

Get your *Program Booklet* now, then start deciding what activities your Scouts and Venturers want to experience.

What then? Prepare for the event of your life! It'll be unforgettable. Don't miss it!

Watch future issues of the **Leader** for more exciting CJ'97 program information. X

— Jay Campbell is the Program Coordinator for CJ'97 and a Scouter from London, ON.

Child Abuse

How to Protect Scouting Youth: Part 1

by Nancy Schoenherr, David Townsend, Bryon Milliere

The media has made Canadians very aware of the reality and frequency of child abuse. We are beginning to accept the fact that child abuse in its many forms takes place every day in homes, in schools, in families and even in volunteer organizations. As adults responsible for the safety of children under our care, let's consider what we can do to make growing up a fun and easier process.

For decades Scouting has been a safe place for millions of young Canadians to spend part of their childhood. Our leaders want to help children develop into resourceful and responsible adults who respect and honour God, other people and themselves. Yet in every community live adults who, either willingly or from lack of skills, pose a threat to child safety.

Scouters may become aware of a child threatened by abuse either through observing a problem or by the youngster reporting it to them. Many adult members have taken training that describes how to report suspected abuse to child protection agencies. Schools and day-care centres are giving training on street-proofing to children so they can know how to protect themselves from potential or repeat abuse.

The Leadership Team

Within our Movement we are developing better resources for those who interview and recruit volunteers. Con-

cerning our programs, the leadership team approach has been one of Scouts Canada's past strengths. This concept minimizes the time adults spend alone with children. Scouting programs have added protection: most leaders are well known because they have children in our programs. But we need to educate recruiters, leaders and youth how they can identify dangerous individuals.



You're acting in an appropriate manner if you are comfortable when others watch your behaviour with children.

Photo: Paul Ritchie

What is Abuse?

Child abuse is defined as any of the points below if it can result in injury or psychological damage to a young person:

- Emotional deprivation
- Neglect
- Sexual maltreatment
- Physical harm.

Sexual maltreatment receives the most public attention because of the physical and psychological harm it causes. (See the "Helpful Definitions" sidebar for a more complete description.)

Children who have been abused may tell their leaders about an incident that causes them discomfort or fear. At other times Scouters may suspect that a child is a victim of abuse by unusual and unexplained injuries, or sudden changes in behaviour. Disclosures by a child are to be taken seriously and acted on swiftly. (Part 2 of this article will deal with this in greater depth next month.)

Practical Advice

Many people who are committed to the care and development of children and youth through their paid or volunteer work are becoming very cautious about working and helping children. They're afraid that others may misinterpret their natural contact as threatening. Adults who work with youth *should* be careful how and when they touch children, but **appropriate** caring and touching is still very important, desirable and necessary for the healthy development of young people.

It is good to provide a friendly pat on the back or a tousling of the hair for an extra effort on some activity. The child deserves the attention. When an adult touches a child in positive and appropriate ways, it sends inspiring messages like, "You belong here," and, "I like you."

Make a point of showing appropriate affection to all of your children in open places where others can see and share in the warmth. If you are comfortable with others watching what you are doing with children, you are probably acting appropriately.

If a child is hurting or feeling ill and needs to be examined, ensure that an-

other person of the same sex as the child is present in the room while you are carrying out the examination. If possible, leave the examination of private places to professionals. Don't force the child to remove clothing for an examination.

If a child is sad and needs to be comforted, show affection by placing your arm around a shoulder and giving a hug or a good squeeze from the side. If a child needs to have a private conversation with you, walk beyond hearing distance of others so no one can eavesdrop, but stay in view of the group or leave a door open.

It may be impossible to avoid situations where you have to be alone with a child. If you must be alone, be sure you have taken all of the safeguards and that parents are aware of the nature of your activity with the child. For example, when doing bed checks at camp, bring a second adult. When travelling long hours by car, take either more than one child with you or another volunteer.

When camping, ensure that you maintain the suggested ratios of adults to children. An individual's right to privacy must be recognized and taken into consideration in such matters as sleeping places and sanitary facilities. Adult members should have sleeping accommodations separate from youth members (where possible) unless discipline, safety or available facilities dictate otherwise. Co-educational camps should ensure that every consideration is given to propriety.

Don't be alone and naked with a child *anywhere*. If you must change at public swimming pools, use discretion commonly practised for such places.

Be cautious about any conversations with children that involve sex. Understandably, children ask honest questions about sexuality; teenagers may ask you advice. Listen to them with respect: that's appropriate. Joking around with youth in ways that encourage promiscuity or the acceptance of sexually explicit material is dangerous for both you and them.

Respect and Common Sense

Respect the integrity of the child in all things. Allow a young person to back away from your well-intentioned affection. Abused children are sometimes fearful or distrustful of any physical contact.

Most of us sense the difference between positive and caring intentions and those which are meant to exploit

A helping hand and a bit of encouragement go a long way to build healthy, happy children.



Photo: James Lakarampilli

us. Use common sense and good judgement to guide you in protecting the personal space of children in your care.

The nature of our program provides opportunities for both those who seek to harm children (such as the paedophile) and those who, through incompetence, may put children at risk. Scouting tries to screen out and watch for those who seek to harm, while

developing the competence of adult leaders.

The Law of the Wolf Cub pack is: *The Cub respects the Old Wolf. The Cub respects him/herself.* The Old Wolf in the Cub program is the leader. Abuse in its many forms is really a question of respect and trust. Does the Old Wolf respect the Cub? Children and their parents put a great deal of trust in the

HELPFUL DEFINITIONS

Child abuse takes many forms. Here are some definitions that might help Scouters understand the problem better.

Neglect: Chronic inattention to the basic emotional and physical needs of a child.

Emotional Abuse: Inappropriate care, control, affection, stimulation for the child. This includes inappropriate demands placed upon a child and exposing a child to frequent incidents involving family violence.

Physical Abuse: The use of physical force, resulting in non-accidental injury. In some cases injury is caused by over-discipline. Despite different cultural standards of discipline, injuring a child is not acceptable and must be stopped. Children have clear rights under Canadian law and must be protected.

The *Criminal Code of Canada* tries to protect children from sexual abuse by defining specific issues. Here are some of its definitions regarding sexual activities with youth.

Sexual Exploitation (Section 153): An older person who holds a special position of trust and responsibility (for example, a teacher, coach, minister or doctor) must not touch any part of a young adult, aged 14-17 for "sexual purposes"; nor can that person invite a young person aged 14-17 to touch him/herself for sexual purposes.

Sexual Interference (Section 151): An adult must not touch any part of a child under age 14 for "sexual purposes."

Invitation to Sexual Touching (Section 152): An adult must not invite a child under the age of 14 to touch him/herself for "sexual purposes."

Exposure (Section 167): This occurs when any person who, in any place, for a sexual purpose, exposes his or her genital organs to a person who is under the age of fourteen years.

Other laws cover the activities of anal intercourse, sexual assault, exposure, pornography, incest, bestiality, and false reporting.

adults who provide the Scouting program. Leaders often find themselves giving what parents have failed, or been unable, to provide the child. Sometimes this involves necessary equipment for an outdoor activity; on other occasions it might involve really listening to his or her concerns.

Be Prepared

The Scout motto, "Be Prepared", reflects how Scouting prepares youth for the challenges they will face in the program and later in life. A program that does not prepare youth for these challenges may even constitute a form of neglect. For example, taking first year Scouts winter camping without checking their gear and reviewing methods to ensure personal protection from the elements would be neglectful. As a leader it's also important to know your limits. Respect yourself and the youth by avoiding situations that you are not prepared for. Seek the appropriate training or obtain some experienced help before tackling more difficult activities.

Using youth leaders such as Keeos, Kims and Scouters-in-training builds leadership skills in them. Adults working with these young people are responsible for ensuring that they're prepared for the roles they accept. Make sure young leaders are not put into situations that they cannot work through safely. For example, does a young leader have the ability to maintain the discipline of the group without resorting to force? Does a young leader know the limits dictated by safety for the activity?

Build them Up

The Scouting experience can do a great deal to build self-assurance and self-esteem in an individual when leaders support and encourage a child to face new challenges. Scouting can be

*Let kids
achieve
at their
own level.*



Photo: Allen Macartney

a "safe place to make mistakes" when leaders view mistakes as a normal part of the learning process and risks associated with predictable errors are minimized. Let's remember that Cubs are challenged to do their best and are accepted at *their* level of ability. These principles apply to all sections.

Children may sometimes be very cruel to peers who are challenged in various ways (e.g. overweight or slower than the rest of the group). A good leader will model respect for individuals by not making fun of physical or mental conditions. Cruel teasing like this by youth members and adults is unacceptable. Look for opportunities to congratulate each member for doing his or her best whatever that 'best' might be. Showing favouritism to the overachiever or the underachiever fosters resentment.

Initiation ceremonies and practices are not part of the Scouting program. Don't let youth engage in such rights of passage. See your leader's handbook for details on how to conduct an investiture ceremony that makes a new section member feel welcome.

Vary your program to allow youth to realize their strengths. Active, running

games may be suited for some youth while others might excel at music or problem solving. Young people understand each other's limitations; they will follow your example in accommodating and helping those with special needs. Know the strengths and limits of your members; it will help you plan appropriately challenging and fun programs.

If these steps to providing safe and responsible programs are obvious to you, please teach them to new volunteers joining your group. Your local council can provide additional information if you need it. Speak up if you see leaders putting themselves, or the children they work with, at risk. Your intervention may make a lifelong difference for the adult and the children they seek to develop.

Scouting is fun. Let's make sure that those lasting memories are good memories.

See April's Leader for more information on this important subject. Part 2 will discuss how to report suspected abuse.

Resources

- Health Canada produces many publications dealing with this subject. Phone 1-800-267-1291.
- *Put the Child First*. Ask your council for a copy.
- Leader handbooks
- *B.P. & P.*
- "Protect Yourself and Others! We have a choice", **the Leader**, December 1995, *For Volunteers* column. ^

— Nancy Schoenherr is a Scouter working with the Children's Aid Society in Ottawa, ON. David Townsend is a Field Executive in the National Capital Region. Bryon Milliere is Director of Volunteer Services at the National Office.



SCOUTING'S MISSION STATEMENT



To contribute to the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potential as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities through the application of our Principles and Practices.

START A BUTTERFLY GARDEN FOR SPRING



by Carol Andrews



Butterflies (and the caterpillars they grow from) attract children everywhere. Growing seeds is also an enjoyable activity for youth, so why not combine these two passions? This makes an excellent activity for March and early April.

Pick seeds that are easy for children to manage. Flowers with very small seeds might cause trouble for young Beavers. Grow the seeds in recycled 'pots' such as rinsed egg shell halves (keep them in cardboard egg cartons), cut-down milk containers or clean food tins (use a punch can opener or a nail to make a drainage hole). Beavers and Cubs can bring these supplies from home.

Choose an inexpensive soil starter mix, pour it into an ice cream bucket or pail and add warm water to moisten. Let the kids help. Lots of old newspapers underneath will contain the mess.

The Yummiest Flowers

What flowers attract butterflies? Plants with lots of nectar draw them best. Even the most discriminating butterfly would find these flowers irresistible: marigolds, lobelia (very small seed), hollyhock, sweet alyssum, petunia (small seed), schizanthus (butterfly flower), shasta daisy, phlox, ageratum and sunflower.

The little hands of Cubs and Beavers shouldn't find marigold, hollyhock, sweet alyssum and sunflower seeds too small to handle. You'll need larger planting containers for the bigger seeds (e.g. hollyhock and sunflower). One or two marigold seeds should start nicely in the egg shells. If you're using egg shells, ensure your kids can transplant them into larger containers at home or at a later meeting. When the flowers are ready (and the weather is warm

enough) get your Beavers and Cubs to transplant them in a garden. If no space is available, grow them in large pots.

Who's the Host?

Alfalfa, clover, milkweed, grasses, parsley and vetch make excellent host plants for the caterpillar larvae to eat. Alfalfa and clover germinate easily — a great side project for your group. These have the advantage of being edible as sprouts. Butterflies also need puddles in the garden. Any shallow container with moist soil, sand or stones sunk slightly into the ground will do.



"I can't believe it flew all the way from Central America!"

Photo: Paul Ritchi

Some seed companies now sell butterfly mixtures and at least one seed catalog identifies those plants which are good nectar plants for butterflies with a special symbol. Look for it.

Now you have to wait for the caterpillars. If you want to try to hatch them, take this advice. The container needs air, food (your host plants) and humidity. Keep it at room temperature out of direct sunlight. A large glass jar with holes punched in the lid is adequate. Moist paper towelling in the bottom will provide humidity. Keep the little creatures supplied with leaves of the plant you found it on. Clean out the droppings and add twigs so it has a

place to crawl as it grows. After the butterfly (or moth) has emerged and its wings are ready, take it outside and open the lid — preferably near some of your butterfly plants.

Use this butterfly garden project to study the life-cycle of butterflies and caterpillars. Identify caterpillars that damage forests. Talk about how the Monarch flies all the way from Central America to Canada. How do pesticides and herbicides affect insects and birds? Did you know benign insects (like lady bugs) kill harmful aphids? Some Scouting groups have purchased large quantities of lady bugs and released them in their neighbourhood as a way to destroy harmful insects.

Butterflies won't be the only creatures attracted to your garden. If you plant bright red flowers, you might find they attract hummingbirds too. Why not set up a hummingbird feeder nearby? Make a list of other insects and birds that pay unusual attention to your garden.

Butterfly Mobile

Part of our butterfly garden project always includes making a paper mobile using broken crayon bits scraped onto waxed paper. After covering the waxed paper with a second sheet, press with a warm iron. Either cut this colourful creation into a butterfly shape or fold it in half. Cubs also enjoy making this mobile.

March doesn't have to be a dreary time. Let's anticipate spring's explosion of life. Butterflies can help us appreciate nature. ^

Program Links

Cubs: Black Star #3, Gardener Badge, Tawny Star #9, Handicraft Badge

— Carol Andrews is a very active Scouter working in the Queen Charlotte Islands of BC.

Find the Hidden Spiritual Opportunities

by Colin Wallace

Scouting promotes many spiritual values through its section promises, its motto, its badges and its program activities. But sometimes we don't take the time to really explore this important side of Scouting. Are we really looking for every opportunity to develop our youth spiritually?

At a recent Scouter training event, participants asked themselves a question: How many ways can we find to include spiritual awareness in our program? After a brainstorming session, here's part of the list they made.

- Scouts' Own
- games (fellowship)
- nature (OUT in Scouting)
- good turns
- opening/closing prayers
- grace at meals
- Scouts' Five
- by example
- Religion-in-Life badge
- church service (Scout-Guide Week)

- walk/talk in the woods
- campfire
- skits/playacting
- guest (inspirational/motivational)
- service projects

Scanning the list later, I wondered if the contribution from seasoned Scouters had been much different from that of new leaders. After all, why wouldn't a wise old Scouter brim over with excellent ideas?

Only Unique Ideas Count

Your challenge, as a Scouter who is becoming more experienced by the week, is to dream up ideas that distinguish you as a veteran Scouter — new ideas that separate you from the Scouting novice.

Start by trying the same brainstorming exercise mentioned above, but this time with a twist. Divide your group into four teams. Each team must brainstorm for ten minutes listing as many section program activities as possible related to spiritual development. But — here's the twist — teams gain points *only* for those items on their list that are NOT mentioned on any other team's list. That should encourage some adventurous (even dramatic) thinking!

Never Ending Challenge

Continue your challenge by combining spiritual activities (e.g. a Scouts' Own) with other activities (e.g. meal times). Have you ever considered a silent theme night with everyone dressed as monks and playing silent games? The monks could wear kangaroo sweat shirts. What craft or activity would you choose? How would you drive home a spiritual message through this evening? Listening to nature, admiring God's creation and helping each other in a team relay race may start the ideas flowing.

Think of the spiritual aspects of writing, poetry or meditation. Why not get your 'monks' to learn calligraphy and write our Scouting Aim on thick paper for framing?

Can you plan a spiritual writing contest between sixes or patrols? A play doesn't need to be full of "Thees" and "Thous" to have valuable spiritual content. Cubs and Scouts might have some excellent ideas that will surprise you.

How can you explore the spiritual dimension of physical activities like hiking, bird-watching or star-gazing?

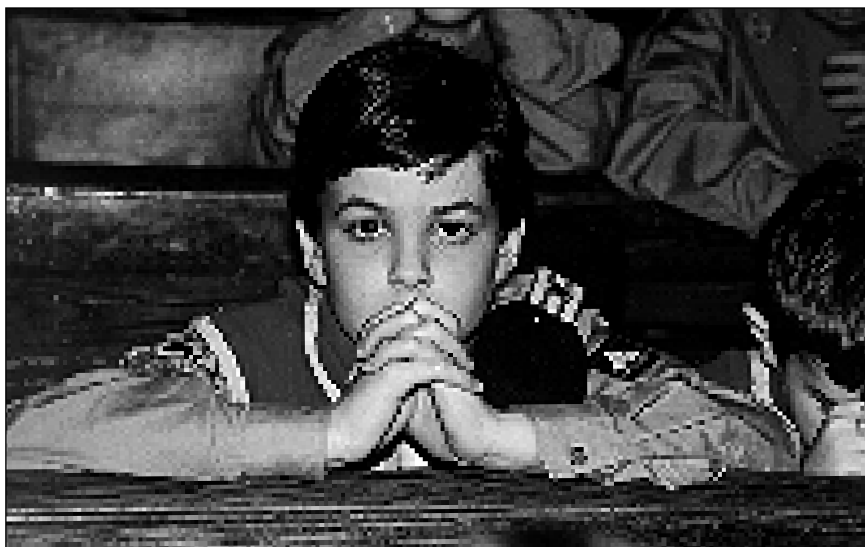
Once Every Thirty Minutes

By all means use tried and tested strategies, but look beyond the obvious. When you search for occasions when you might inject reflection or prayer into your program, try doing it for one minute every 30 minutes. You could offer a thoughtful reading *after* everyone is tucked in for the night at camp.

Consider the spirituality of social activities like visiting friends or family gatherings. Look for opportunities to tie your discussions into the Promise and Law.

Carpe Diem (Seize the Day)

Instead of criticizing errors and mistakes, look for opportunities when someone does the *right* thing (e.g. sporting behaviour). Become known as someone who excels in praising others. (Read through the book, *A Guide to the Honours and Awards of Scouts Canada* — available in Scout Shops. It's sure to give you some ideas.) Seize those un-



Photos: Paul Ritchie

Increasing the spiritual content in your program doesn't have to mean quiet prayers and church parades. Be creative. Try something different, like a 1-in-30 prayer.

What better time to learn to appreciate the creation than when out skiing or snowshoeing? Listen to the crunch of snow underfoot or make a list of all signs of woodland life you see.



expected, teachable moments for spiritual development.

Conduct a person-in-the-street interview/survey. Ask, "What is the meaning of life?" Record all the answers you get. Later, discuss the merits of each response.

Create a series of awards and trophies based on spiritual development. These might include:

- Kindest Kid in Creation
- Friendliest Fellow
- Most Willing Sharer
- Most Likely to be a Saint
- Maximum Motivator
- Scout with the Warmest Smile

Get your kids to make up the awards. (Hey, that offers some interesting craft opportunities!) Invite everyone to nominate a deserving recipient for each award. Then, with appropriate pomp and circumstance, bestow the honours and explain how each winner earned the trophy. Make sure everyone receives an award.

Think about what a conscience might look like if you could see it. Now make a three-dimensional model of it. Label all the parts, then explain the importance of each part.

"BINGO!"

Try a Spiritual Bingo, a Spiritual Jeopardy or a Spiritual Wheel of Fortune. How could you organize a Spiritual Scavenger Hunt? Choose a familiar game that your kids love, then challenge them to put a spiritual spin on it. Make up rules for these activities, but

remember to have fun! The intent is to help youth tune in more to the spiritual side of life, while enjoying themselves as much as possible.

Collect some thoughtful quotes and discuss them with your Venturers. Try this one: "Man is still the most extraordinary computer of all." (John F. Kennedy)

If you discover a really successful program activity that your group loves,

share it with other **Leader** readers. We're all looking for a new game, an entire theme night or even a song with an important message.

Though at first it might appear daunting, tackle the spirituality giant. It's a pushover. ^

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

Spiritual Bibliography

Here's a helpful list of books for your spiritual brainstorming sessions.

555 Ways to Put More Fun in Your Life, B. Basso, Globe Pequot Press, Connecticut, 1994. An outstanding source of excellent (and zany) material for section activities. This book will show you how spiritual development can be a lot of fun.

Kids' Book of Questions, G. Stock, Workman Publishing, New York, 1988. This book offers 260 thought-provoking questions that are sure to generate excellent discussions. Use one question every week as part of your program, or use the book to make up your own game on Scouting ethics.

A Book of Games, H. Prather, Doubleday & Co., New York, 1981. Your Scouts' Own won't be the same after reading this book and playing some of its games. Outstanding.

Acts of Kindness, M. McCarty and H. McCarty, Deerfield Beach, Florida, Health Communications, 1994. This book describes over 100 examples of "good turns." After reading it you'll never have difficulty planning a service project.

Chicken Soup for the Soul, J. Canfield and M. Hansen, Deerfield Beach, Florida, Health Communications, 1994. Full of great ideas for your next Scouts' Own.

Make Your Own Snowshoes

Here's a neat winter idea Alberta Scouts enjoy. They make their own snowshoes. What a great camp craft.

1. Each snowshoe requires 12-15 metres of two-strand rope and two pieces of willow or dogwood branches. The wood must be about 2.5 cm thick and 125 cm long.
2. Lash each willow end together as seen in diagram 1. Five or six turns of a rope should work well.
3. Tie four or five strands of the rope lengthwise along the frame tying the back ends onto the trailing sides of the snowshoe.
4. After attaching rope onto the side of the snowshoe, weave the rope in and out between the strands already in position. (Diagram 2) When you reach each wooden frame,

make a knot and then loop back again steadily moving toward the rear of the snowshoe.

5. When your rope net inside each snowshoe is complete, tie four pieces of rope (approximately one metre long) to the frame sides. (Diagram 3) Now weave these into the middle of the snowshoe tying them at the point your boot will be attached to the snowshoe. (Diagram 4)

Now it's time to put them on and have fun!

Warning: If you make the snowshoes inside during winter, be sure to warm the wood up to room temperature before you start. If you don't the wood may break.

— Thanks to Cheryl Smith and Greg Paquin, Okotoks, AB

Program Links

Cubs: Handicraft Badge, Aboriginal Awareness Badge
 Scouts: Scoutcraft Badge, Winter Scouting (silver)

Diagram 1

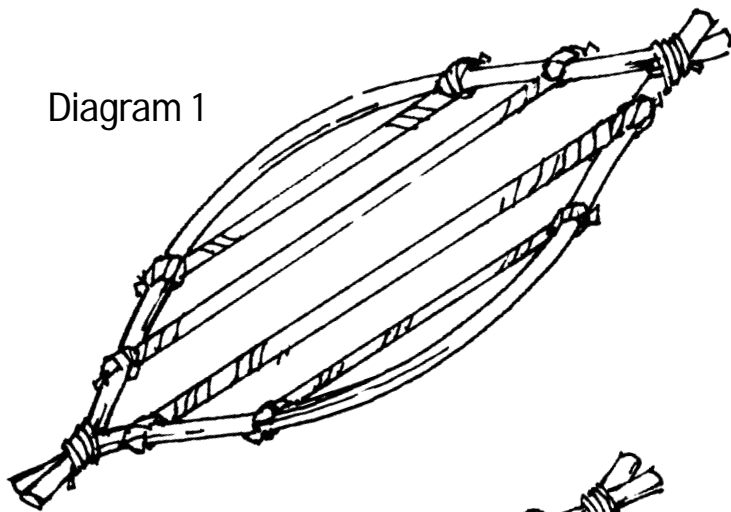


Diagram 2

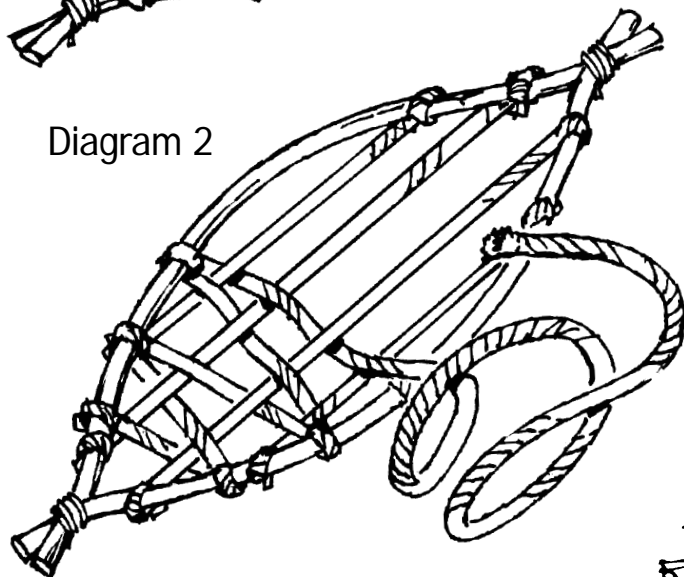


Diagram 3

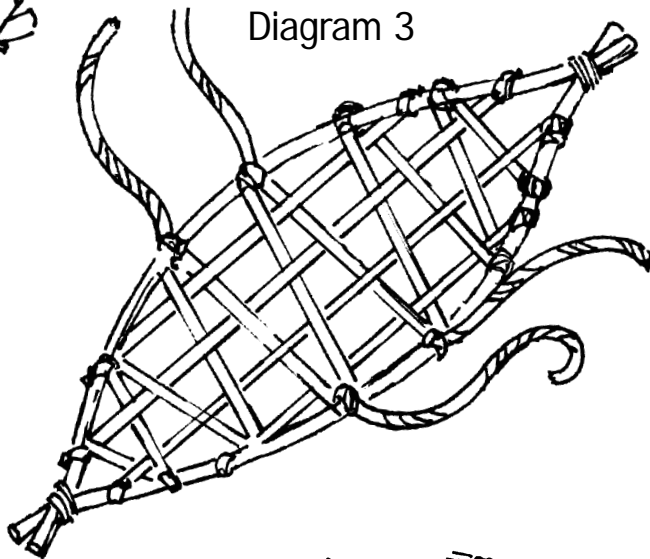
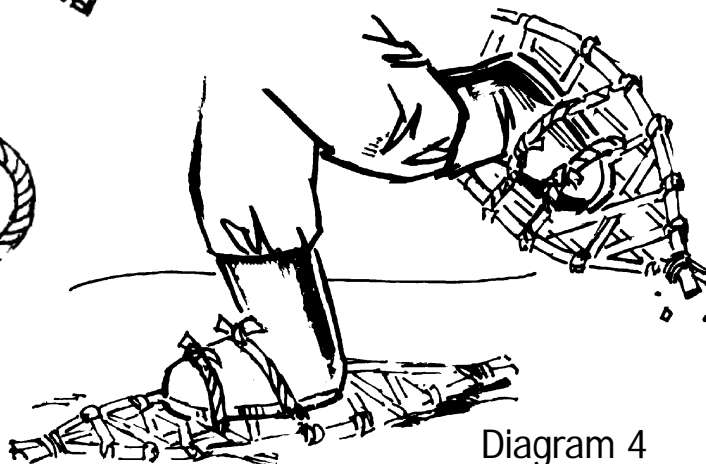


Diagram 4



Environmental Beavers to the Rescue



Use this story as part of an environmental theme night or get everyone involved during a parent/child evening. Let everyone represent the fish, fishermen and Beavers, then assign the other sound effects to groups of children.

Sound Effects

WATER: Blub, blub, blub

FISH: "I love fresh water." (Grinning)

FISHERMEN: "It was THAT big!"

(Show how big)

AIR: Blowing sounds

TREES: Swish, swish

POLLUTION: Grrrrrr!

CAR: Varoom, varoom!

SCUM: "Ooooh sick!"

CANS: Crash, crash

GARBAGE: Yucky, yucky

BEAVERS: "We'll share and care."

Once upon a time on this beautiful earth, there was a flowing river of cool blue WATER. The WATER was filled

with small blue FISH and large silver FISH. FISHERMEN spent hours on the shores of the lovely cool WATER catching FISH of all sizes.

The AIR by the WATER was clean and pure. Alongside the river stood tall shade TREES that danced in the wind. The WATER was good for drinking and the AIR was good for breathing. POLLUTION was just a bad word.

One day, beside the beautiful body of WATER with its big and little FISH, its large green TREES and pure AIR, someone in a CAR carelessly tossed a lighted match out the window. Fire raged. It destroyed many TREES and fouled the pure AIR with smoke and soot.

Not long after, slimy SCUM appeared in the WATER. More people in CARS appeared and tossed out bottles and CANS and gum wrappers, and all kinds of GARBAGE. The WATER was soon filled with GARBAGE and SCUM. The FISH began to die. The FISHERMEN were sad to see POLLUTION destroy the WATER, the AIR and the few green TREES that were

left. Most of all, they were sad because people were careless.

But never fear. The (your colony's name) BEAVERS appeared on the scene. They were shocked by what they found and went to work. The BEAVERS cleaned up the river banks and the WATER. They planted small green TREES. They posted signs saying: "Please do not throw your GARBAGE around. Help keep the WATER clean." It made people start seriously thinking about POLLUTION. Some even stopped driving their CARS; they rode their bikes instead.

In a few years the BEAVERS were able to enjoy the flowing WATER again. The tall green TREES danced in the wind, the AIR became pure, the SCUM in the WATER disappeared and the FISH returned to the clean WATER. Everyone was happy: the BEAVERS, the people in CARS and on bikes, the birds nesting in the green TREES, the FISH and, most of all, the FISHERMEN!

— Hazel Hallgren, Red Deer, AB.

Jungle Campfire Anyone?



Here is a jungle campfire opening and closing that Hour pack really enjoys.

Opening

Akela calls everyone to the council rock:

"Come young wolves and join the pack. Come join us Baloo the wise old bear, teacher of the jungle law. Come join us Bagheera the black panther, who teaches us to hunt. Come join us Kaa the great python, who saved Mowgli from Shere Khan. Come join us leaders and friends of the jungle and share your wisdom. Teach us the law of the jungle. Come near and hear the words of Akela and the friends of the jungle. Come join our council tonight and be heard. I now declare this campfire open."

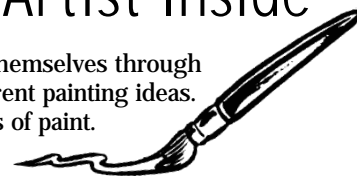
Closing

"As our campfire fades, our council comes to an end. Akela, leader of the pack, will you guide our steps in the jungle tonight? Baloo, the wise old bear, will you help us to remember the law and help us to be good Wolf Cubs? Bagheera, Kaa and all the friends of Mowgli and the pack (call out the names of all your leaders), will you protect us tonight? Will you teach us our hunting and jungle skills? Young wolves, return to your lairs. Let there be peace in the jungle tonight, and let it begin with us. This council is ended."

— From Earl Bateman, 40th Mountainview Pack, St. Catharines, ON.

Release the Artist Inside

Children love to express themselves through art. Here are some different painting ideas. First let's make various types of paint.



Puffy Paint

Mix together in several bowls 250 mL flour, 250 mL water and 250 mL salt. Add different shades of food colouring to each bowl, then put the paint in plastic squeeze bottles. These are great for outlining pictures.

When Beavers have finished their pictures, simply spray them with hair spray or clear acrylic.

Starch and Salt Paint

Mix together 250 mL liquid starch, 60 mL water and 250 mL salt. Divide the mixture up into separate bowls and add 5-10 mL of tempera paint to give different colours. Now you're ready to start painting.

The Textured Look

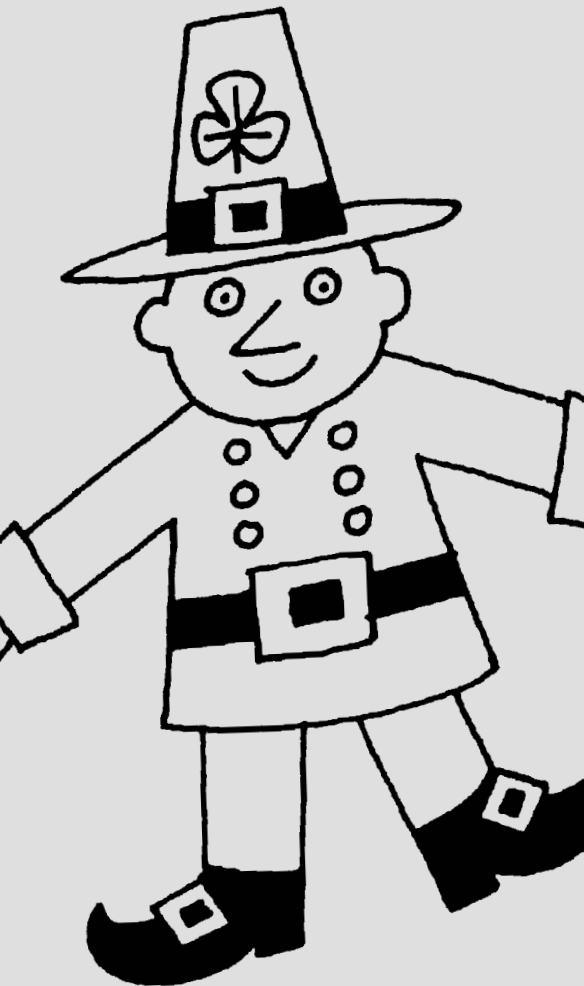
Idea 1: Try painting on sandpaper. Glue the finished art work onto construction paper and display the creations in a public place for all to admire.

Idea 2: Use coloured rice glued to a paper to make a picture. Before your meeting, colour the rice by soaking it for 10 minutes in a solution of 250 mL rubbing alcohol and several drops of food colouring. Set the rice on wax paper to dry. Let your Beavers trace an outline with white glue onto a paper, then set the coloured rice in the glue. λ

— Thanks to Ruth Dubeau, North Bay, ON.

Fun at the Pond

by Lena Wong



This month has many special celebrations. Here are a few of the days recognized by many people across Canada.

- 1st weekend
Haru Matsuri
(Japanese Doll's Festival)
- March 1
St. David's Day (Wales)
- March 5
Purim (Jewish)
- March 17
St. Patrick's Day (Ireland)
- March 19
St. Joseph's Day
- March 20
1st day of spring
- March 21
Jamshedi Navroz (Zoroastrian)
- March 20-April 2
Now Ruz (Persian New Year)
- March 22-29
Ohigan (Japanese Buddhists)

Borrow a book on holidays from the library to get more information about festivities associated with some of these special days. Plan several theme meetings around one or two; it will introduce some new ideas into your program.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY

This day provides an excellent opportunity to plan an Irish theme. Your colony is sure to have at least one member with an Irish background.

A local library should have books on St. Patrick, the patron saint who introduced Christianity into Ireland. Many legends, stories and historical facts surround this illustrious hero. Explore other Irish stories including tales of mythical beings like fairies and leprechauns. Resources such as *The Book of the Dun Cow*, *The Book of Ballymote* and *The Speckled Book* are tales of adventure and romance passed down in Irish history.

Find a book on children's limericks — funny, whimsical, easy-to-compose little rhymes. Limericks are always five lines long. The first two lines rhyme with the last, and the third and fourth lines rhyme with each other. Here's an example:

Said a dear little girl from Duluth,
"Each time I am missing a tooth,
I find in my bed
A quarter instead.
Oh, I wish they would all become looth."

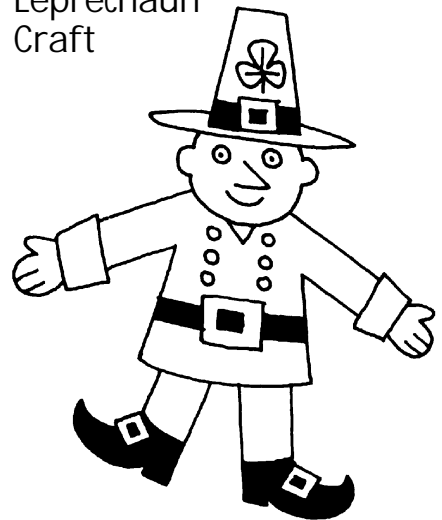
Here's a limerick of my own creation. You and your Beavers can do a lot better.

There was a young Beaver
of Richmond,
Who of playing was very fond,
When asked to help build a dam,
He said "Yes, right away ma'am",
And fell right into the pond.

Song, dance and music play a large role in Irish culture. Get hold of some recordings of performers singing and playing Irish music and instruments. Let your Beavers express themselves by thinking up their own dances to the bouncy, cheerful songs.

Leprechaun Craft: You need a body and hat cut from green construction paper, a head and hands cut from pink paper, legs and boots cut from red paper, googly eyes, glue, and pieces of black and yellow construction paper to dress up the coat and hat. (See diagram.) Glue the pieces together to complete your leprechaun. Make the little leprechauns any size you wish. You can also make them two-sided.

Leprechaun Craft



SPRING

Let's celebrate spring. Winter came early to most parts of Canada in 1995; no doubt you and your Beavers are ready to start thinking of warmer weather. Here's a spring song-game to start things off. Sing it to the tune of "Sur le pont d'Avignon." (From *Let's Celebrate Canada's Special Days*, C. Parry, Kids Can Press Ltd.)

Won't you plant your seeds with care,
In the fields and in the gardens.
Won't you plant your seeds with care,
As they do in France so fair!

Sing the song while moving around clockwise in a circle. When you get to "France so fair", stop and stamp your feet three times, once for each word. Now add more verses, changing the words each time to use as many body parts as possible while acting them out. Here's an example:

Use your hands to plant them there,
In the fields and in the garden.
Use your hands to plant them there,
As they do in France so fair!

It's easy enough with hands, but how about ears or knees?

Now is a good time to start getting outdoors again as much as possible. Discuss outdoor spring safety. With melting snow and ice, ponds, lakes, streams and even ditches become risky places for play. Talk about the hazards and how to avoid accidents. Make sure they understand the importance of staying away from the banks of water bodies at this time of year.

In many parts of the country it's now light enough to start your meetings by exploring outside for signs of spring. What a great time to visit your special outdoors place.

If you recorded the seasonal changes in the fall, do the same now with spring pointing out to the Beavers how the process has been reversed. The sun's position in the sky has changed; temperatures go up instead of down; trees are starting to bud instead of dropping leaves; birds are coming back from the south. Make up your own list of opposites and follow the changes from week to week.

Carry out a little experiment to see how quickly grass grows. Pick a clump of grass in a location where it's not likely to be cut. Measure the longest blades every week and record the rate of growth. Are the same blades always the tallest or do some grow faster than others? Keep an eye on your clump of grass throughout the spring and record when the seed heads appear.

Take regular walks in the woods or your nearest park (your special place) to study the differences in plant growth between open areas and sheltered locations. How much quicker do sheltered flowers appear? Is grass growth thicker and faster where it is sheltered? What differences can you observe about growth in dry and wet areas? If you are near a mountain equipped with hiking paths, try to visit different sides of the mountain. How does spring growth vary between the north side and the south side? Make sure you and the

Beavers bring paper and crayons to draw and record spring growth. You could make a spring picture display.



INDOOR GAMES

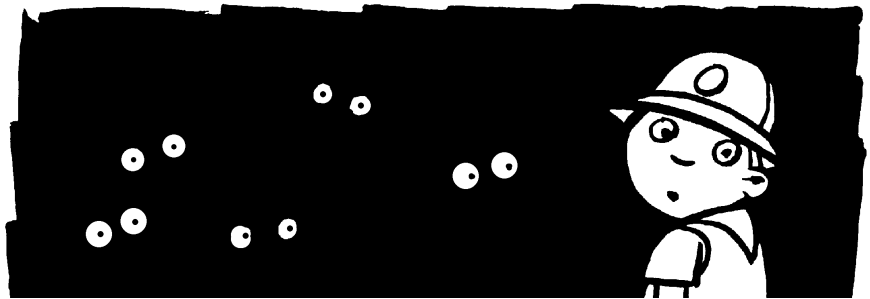
You still need some indoor fun. Try these games with your Beavers. (From *Scouting Magazine*, November 1995.)

Spot the Beaver: Turn the lights off in your meeting room. Beavers must hide in the dark and keep very still. A leader tries to pick out the kids with the help of a flashlight.

Dressing in the Dark: Beavers take off their socks, shoes, neckerchief and vest and place them individually on the floor in front of themselves. Turn off the lights. The first child to get fully dressed again turns the light back on.

Beanbags in the Dark: Seat the Beavers along the walls of the meeting room; turn off the lights. A leader places a pile of bean bags or scrunched up newspapers in the centre of the room. Beavers must crawl to the pile and pick up as many beanbags/newspaper balls as possible.

Have fun with March and early spring. ^



ENERGY BURNERS



While spring in March is certainly a reality in some parts of Canada, it's still snowy in other parts. So make the most of it; get out toboggans, skates and skis, and enjoy what is left of winter. Why not build a few more snowmen and snow forts?



KNEE SLAPS:

Beavers should run on the spot keeping their hands, palms down at waist level. The object is to lift the knees high enough to slap their hands.



FROG HOPS:

Beavers start in a crouch with their hands on the floor between their legs. Now spring forward, resume the crouch position and leap again. This can be quite a strenuous game so don't overdo it if your Beavers start to get tired.



SCRAMBLE:

Ask your Beavers to bring a tennis ball or ping-pong ball to the meeting. Assign each Beaver a number and print the numbers on the balls. Scatter the balls on the floor of the meeting rooms. Beavers must try to find the ball with their number on it. If a child picks up someone else's number they should throw the ball back into the game.

WACKY PR

Can Be Great Fun

by John Rietveld and Ann Dort-Maclean

When a public figure gets into trouble, some people say, "He'll need really good PR to get out of this one!" It's said almost as if PR is somewhat unsavoury. Other times people read an article or hear of an event and conclude, "That's just PR." Likewise, Scouters often suggest Scouting needs more PR.

What exactly *is* PR?

Public Relations (PR) is a management function designed to help a company or organization (like Scouts Canada) evaluate public attitudes. Then, based on an assessment, the company or organization can start an action program to gain public understanding and support.

In Scouting PR takes many forms, such as the Scouts Canada Public Service Announcements produced and distributed to media across the country. At the local level, PR includes attending Remembrance Day ceremonies in November or religious observances during Scout-Guide Week. Almost everything we do, whether in the meeting hall or the annual Beaveree, could be classed as a form of PR.

Finding new approaches to PR activities is difficult. Almost everything's been tried, but recently Alberta Scouters seized the media's attention and held it. It's a great example of public relations at work locally.

The World's Longest Sub Sandwich

A year and a half ago, Alan Roberts (Vice President of Scouting Special

Events for Tar Sands District in Fort McMurray, AB) read a story about the world's largest submarine sandwich. High school students in Cornwall, ON, had built it. Always on the lookout for an interesting PR angle, Alan decided Scouting groups in Fort McMurray could beat this world record.

An event like this could accomplish a number of interesting PR goals:

- It could raise funds for Scouting. Perhaps some money could go to the Food Bank.
- Tar Sands District Scouting might wind up in the *Guinness Book of World Records*. Neat!
- The event, if well publicized, would raise Scouting's profile locally and lead to increased membership.

Alan set out to sell other Scouters on the idea. It could be a really fun adventure! Everyone liked the idea. Soon Al had recruited his team, appropriately called a "sub-committee" (pun definitely intended!) to work out details. After some research they decided to make the sandwich at a park in Fort McMurray on Father's Day.

The goal: beat the existing world submarine sandwich record of 512.37 meters by almost 100 metres.

The sub-committee faced a daunting task. After making up a list they realized they needed,

- ten local sponsors to donate \$500 each in cash or kind

- 300 tables to build the sub on
- trucks and drivers to transport tables
- a refrigeration truck
- 200 pairs of disposable gloves.

When they had accomplished that small miracle, they had to recruit and train 200 volunteers, get Guinness to accept the project and, of course, obtain media coverage and community support.

PR Kickoff

The organizers decided to announce the event at the Northern Region's spring meeting in Fort McMurray. To spark excitement and prime the adrenaline, they made a 23 metre submarine sandwich to feed the delegates. Media, dignitaries and sponsors were also invited to the announcement. Building the 23 metre sandwich revealed a few problem areas that needed special attention.

With one large submarine literally under their belts, the task of planning the monster submarine sandwich switched into high gear. Promises for tables, trucks and sponsors appeared quickly. Then organizers started to calculate the amount of food required. The totals were staggering. It included 250 kg of meat (ham, pepperoni, salami and beef), 120 kg of lettuce, 30 kg of cucumbers, 60 kg of cheese, and 2,000 individual servings of mayonnaise and Italian dressing.

After finding out how many Scouting members were going to help, the sub-



committee ordered special commemorative T-shirts. The sandwich would be cut into 2,300 sections, each just over 25 cm long and sold for \$5.00 each. Organizers worked closely with a local Health Unit to ensure safe food handling and preparation.

D-Day

As the day of the world record approached, everyone prayed for bright sunlight. They wanted this *Scouting* event outside. But in case of rain, they made arrangements to hold it at an indoor curling rink.

Everyone on the sub-committee started the morning of the world record challenge with a "Be Prepared" attitude. What could (and would) go wrong? They reminded themselves to "Do Your Best." A grey overcast crept through the sky. A weather report called for rain, but not until late afternoon. "Let's go! It's going to be outside."

Thrill of Victory

Things moved fast. Tables appeared; soon they snaked back and forth across a soccer field and down a pathway. The hard-working sandwich team actually began laying down the buns and filler at 12:30; 50 minutes later it was finished. The official measurement: 555.8 meters — a new world's record!

Pictures were taken from atop a fire truck ladder, the job of wrapping pieces began and the sub was sold (and eaten). Unsold pieces were sent to 500 fire fighters battling a horrendous forest fire in northern Alberta.

What a valiant effort! It was loads of fun and helped the entire district pull together on one project. Not only did it really increase Scouting's visibility in the district, but their accomplishment will probably be included in the *Guinness Book of World Records*.

While they did not reach their optimistic objective (a 600 meter sandwich) these Alberta members did beat the world record. Cloudy weather contributed to poor sales, but financially it was still successful. The event was great fun and generated excellent publicity. This included front page newspaper coverage, an ITV news report (Northern Alberta), CFRN (CTV — Alberta), CBC French News (5 minutes) and lots of additional PR.

Would they do it again? Well... some PR Scouters are talking about the World's Largest Popsicle. (The district is also considering getting Alan locked up!)

A Giant Sundae?

At a recent provincial jamboree in Newfoundland, participants built a huge ice cream sundae. It involved everyone at the jamboree. Hundreds of youth and their leaders peeled bananas, scooped ice cream, sprinkled nuts and sprayed whipped cream into eavestrough set around the jamboree site. Because the ingredients tended to melt quickly, construction was hurried. Cleanup was fun: everyone dug in with spoons and "cleaned up" the sundae. An event like this is sure to attract the attention of local newspaper editors. The pictures also make great illustration for a council annual report.

PR is Fun

Put on your thinking cap. Attracting media attention for local Scouting events can be fun. Why not have a bubble gum blowing contest at your next event? Invite the mayor to join in. The media will love it! \X

— *Ann Dort-Maclean is a sub-eating Scouter from Fort McMurray, AB.*

Discovering Life Through Art

by Ben Kruser

Young children are *do-ers*. A child's means of learning is literally child's play. Creative activities are often underestimated by adults who have long since forgotten what it was like to be six years old. But art projects are not just frivolous play.

To a Beaver, making a cardboard and shoebox castle is a many-faceted adventure. Let's look at how creating this simple craft helps a Beaver-aged child develop.

Beavers are very concrete thinkers. Using their creative thinking processes to design a castle helps children exercise their budding imaginations. Beavers then start thinking about what material they could use to make the castle and how these parts could be combined to fit together. Maintaining concentration and attention for a short time span is also a real accomplishment for many young children who are naturally spontaneous in their emotions and actions.

The way Beavers approach and build castles also provides a window into their mental processes. You can observe how they think; use the project to encourage the youth to talk about what they saw and felt as they made the castle. Beavers are just learning to read and write, so art projects give them another means to express their ideas, views and opinions on how they see the world. Building requires reasoning, logic and problem-solving abilities. A castle with a drawbridge may

seem simple to an adult, but conceptualizing and then building it is a major accomplishment for a six year old Beaver.

Learning to See

Beavers must *learn* to see. This might seem obvious, but while an estimated 85% of information is acquired visually, most children and adults are not trained in effective observation. An art project helps Beavers learn to observe, look, draw information and talk about what they see as it progresses; this makes it easier for them to complete it.

Physically speaking, building a castle provides opportunities for Beavers to develop fine motor skills needed for handling scissors, glue and small pieces of craft material. Using a glue bottle with finesse is not something you learn overnight, nor is cutting paper along a crease or line. Art projects are, in many ways, physically demanding when you are just starting to get your fingers to move in a fine, coordinated fashion.

Working on a castle provides opportunities to develop self-confidence and a feeling of self-worth. Too many adults put emphasis on the quality of the outcome, and simply cannot see the quality of thought or effort that went into the project. For a young child, the importance of the process lies in the creating, and not in the final product being up to some adult-imposed standard. In fact, the anxiety raised from the fear of failing to meet adult expectations is often all it takes to prevent or hold back a child from developing a new skill as fully as he might. When adults make children feel overly concerned about "winning", the youth will not experience as much fun.

As Beavers learn to do artistic projects with minimal assistance, they move away from being dependant on adults. Acquiring social skills through sharing, while becoming a fully independent individual, is the long term result of creating many art projects (like castles) over time. Rewarding the Beaver with praise and attention, and creating opportunities to "brag" about the child's work in the presence of others, is the best form of recognition. ^

Castle Building 101

If you're interested in building castles, here's a basic starting point for your Beavers. Gather together various small shoe-size boxes, coloured markers, glue sticks, scissors, straws, string, pipe cleaners, construction paper, and cardboard tubes. Wrap coloured construction paper around a box taking care to let the paper extend above the box about 2 cm (this forms the outer wall). Let Beavers draw bricks onto the construction paper and glue cardboard rolls to make towers. Use the string to make a drawbridge, the straws to make flags, and the pipe cleaners to make people.

If you have large cardboard boxes available, why not make a giant, kid-sized castle? This project might take several weeks to complete but it is sure to be a hit.



Boy Scouts of Canada Trust

How Much Money Do You Want? by Bob Hallett

It's hard to give money away! Most Scouting members still don't know that we'll financially support their important projects.

The Trust is in fantastic shape. Our assets exceed \$1,000,000.00. That means we can now give approximately \$90,000.00 a year to worthy projects.

For the last two years the Trust had money left over. This seems hard to believe when you consider Scouts Canada has some 4,500 groups, 500 districts, 200 regions and about 28 employing councils eligible to apply for grants.

Three separate funds make up the Trust: the Fellowship Fund, the Molson Leadership Fund and the Environmental Fund. The first two are aimed at helping new, innovative and creative ideas that will help Scouts Canada reach *more* youth and/or retain them in the Movement for a longer period of time. They will not fund projects that are part of, or should be part of, normal operations.

How much money can you get for a project from one of these two funds? Grants have ranged from \$200.00 to \$20,000.00. Any group, district, region or employing council can apply. Let's look at each separate fund.

Fellowship Fund

The Fellowship Fund supports special Scouting projects outside the field of normal day-to-day operations. The fund favours projects that address new needs, test new approaches, or introduce new programs or resources to expand and strengthen Scouting.

Molson Leadership Award

This fund was established by the Honourable Hartland de M. Molson with an initial donation of \$100,000.00. This past year Mr. Molson contributed a further \$100,000.00. Each year we now have \$20,000.00 to give from the Molson Leadership Award.

This award's objective is to increase membership and participation in Scouting by providing financial support for imaginative programs to attract, develop and retain superior leadership. It is also meant to support programs aimed at influencing young Canadians to join the Movement.

The Trust Directors review applications twice a year: once in the fall and once in the spring. To apply to the Fellowship or Molson Funds, your application must be at the National Office by September 15th (fall meeting) or March 15th (spring meeting).

Environmental Fund

Its main purpose is to stimulate environmentally-friendly activities in Scout councils across Canada. The Trust will fund projects up to \$5,000.00. The fund also makes grants up to \$500.00 to groups or sections participating in projects that enhance Scouting's reputation, credibility and public image as an environmentally responsible part of the community.

If your group or section has participated in a project which helps protect our environment (e.g. park/beach/roadside clean-ups, recycling projects, building bird houses) just write and tell us about it. Send pictures too.

Let Us Help You

The Trust Directors know that members of group committees, as well as district and regional councils, have lots of innovative and creative ideas that don't get beyond the talking stage due to lack of funding. The Trust has the money, so let's talk. Share your project idea with us; we'll do our best to fund it.

Why Not Join the Trust?

With a donation spread over five years, you can become a Trust Member for \$500, a Fellow for \$1,000 or a Patron for \$5,000. In each case, you will receive charitable donation receipts, the Trust tie or brooch, and the Trust pin in bronze, silver or gold.

Don't let a creative or innovative idea end at the talking stage for lack of funding. It could be the next Beaver program. Let's work together to achieve our Mission.

Get an application form at any employing council or write to "The Trust", c/o Bob Hallett, National Office, 1345 Baseline Rd., P.O. Box 5151, Stn LCD-Merivale, Ottawa, ON, K2C 3G7, or phone (613) 224-5131. ✕

Catch Some Rays — SAFELY

by Ian Mitchell

Imagine a group of Venturers out in the sun, sporting wide brimmed hats and sun glasses.

No, it's not summer yet, but it is the time of year when Venturers get very mobile again. You can find them hiking and camping, skiing or perhaps ice fishing. Being ever concerned for their safety it may be time to revisit the area of protection from the sun.

Ultraviolet Rays

There are two types of ultraviolet rays which damage skin and cause cancer. The first, Ultraviolet B (UVB), penetrates the outermost layer of skin and causes sunburn. The second type is Ultraviolet A (UVA). Its rays penetrate even deeper and not only cause skin to age prematurely, but can also suppress the immune system.

Anything that protects the skin from exposure to the sun's rays is considered a sunscreen. Clothing, an umbrella, a wide brimmed hat, or one of the many oils, lotions or creams available all come under this category. These products which have been formulated to protect us from the ultraviolet rays come in two forms: sunblocks and sunscreens. Sunblocks, such as zinc oxide, create a barrier which reflects ultraviolet rays. Sunscreens, like PABA, absorb the ultraviolet rays and help prevent penetration through the skin.

These products need to be applied at least 15 to 30 minutes before you go out in order to allow the active ingredients time to soak into the skin.

What about S.P.F.?

S.P.F. stands for the Sun Protection Factor contained in a sunscreen. It refers to the ability of the product to protect skin from burning. It is calculated under laboratory conditions and is a guide to the amount of protection provided. The higher the S.P.F. number the more protection your skin receives and hence the longer you can stay out in the sun before burning. Example: If it would normally take 10 minutes for skin to become reddened without protection, an application of a product with an S.P.F. of 15 would provide protection from burning for up to 150 minutes. The Canadian Dermatology Association recommends an S.P.F. of at least 15. A product with this rating blocks over 92% of the UVB rays.

Because up to 85% of UV rays bounce back at you from the snow, it's important to protect yourself by getting a product labelled as a "broad-spectrum" sunscreen.

Other Facts

Skin cancers occur most frequently on the head and neck — areas constantly exposed to sunlight. Recommendation: Keep your broad brimmed hat on.

Overexposure to sunlight can cause long and short term damage to your eyes. Recommendation: Wear 100% UV protection sunglasses and a broad brimmed hat.

Wet fabrics lose some of their ability to block out solar rays. Recommendation: Don't forget the sunscreen, even under your clothes.

UV rays can penetrate light cloud cover, haze and fog. Recommendation: Don't be fooled by clouds; use sunscreen.

Be sure your Venturers are aware of the dangers of exposure to sunshine. It's one way that we can better prepare them for any outdoor experience. For more information contact The Canadian Dermatology Association at 1-613-730-6262. X

Treating a Sunburn

Here are some tips to follow if you fall prey to a sunburn.

- Call a doctor if you have a bad sunburn accompanied with a headache, shivering or fever.
- Apply cool, wet compresses to the sunburnt area for 20 minutes, several times a day.
- Use hydrocortisone cream (1/2%) to soothe the stinging and itching. Do not use heavy creams or butter.
- Take aspirin or acetaminophen for the pain.
- Drink plenty of fluids.
- Don't expose sunburnt skin to sunlight for at least a week.

CROSS-COUNTRY PHOTOS

LIGHT-HEADED CHALLENGERS

To raise money for the Canadian Scout Brotherhood Fund, British Columbia's 1st Yennadon Scouts challenged others to donate \$1 and a crest to their badge board. If \$500 was raised, the youth agreed to get their heads shaved. Money and badges poured in and soon the fundraiser had collected 525 badges and \$743. The money was sent to support Shi-Won, the young Korean girl injured during the World Jamboree in 1991. Thanks to Mike Owen.



Polar Beavers!

"We're the tops!"

When Beavers from the 1st Nanisivik Colony, NWT, say these words, no one can argue. Their home is located at the top of Baffin Island, 800 km north of the Arctic Circle. Their colony is the most northerly one in Canada — and probably in the world! Here, seven of their members pause in front of an RCMP Twin Otter after touring through it. Photo: Howard Eaton

JUST CLOWNING AROUND

Beavers from Hamilton's 41st Colony, ON, clown around with "Chuckles", their new juggling buddy. They made him the week before their annual carnival sleepover. Photo: Betty Howey.





Quebec's Baden-Powell Award: Thanking Youth Volunteers

To increase public visibility in Quebec of those serving youth, Scouts Canada, the Girl Guides and La Fédération québécoise du guidisme et du scoutisme launched an awards program in 1993 aimed at those *outside* the Scouting/Guiding Movements. Awards are presented at a banquet during National Volunteer Week (usually the last week in April). Last year over 500 people attended the banquet, including Chief Executive John Pettifer, his wife Barbara, and Quebec's Executive Director Rick Tracy. Each year the banquet showcases Scouting as a vibrant and dynamic Movement.



"See you in the sea kayak?" With a gentle wave rocking the boat, 1st St. Martin's Venturers Charles Rowsell and Michael Turner enjoyed some sea kayaking at the Newfoundland and Labrador Provincial Jamboree last year. Two seat kayaks offered an opportunity to explore rocky coves and discuss life in the quiet company of a good friend. "Hey! It's good to talk with you." Photo: Jill Reid



Newfoundland's and Labrador's Discovery '95 Provincial Jamboree not only offered great kayaking but also an opportunity to build and launch your own pop bottle rocket. Here, a Scout and Venturer start the critical final countdown before sending their craft skyward. Thanks to Harley Rogers.

Let's Take Better Aim: Part 2

by Bob Kane

This article completes our two-part series on competency-based training. Part 1 appeared in the February issue.

When deciding what Scouters need to learn, the first step (from the trainer's point of view) is to measure individual job performance against existing performance standards.

What performance standards? Good question.

One thing Scouting has forgotten is to set performance standards. From an organizational viewpoint our focus has always been on "what we do" and "how we do it," rather than on "how well we do it."

When asked how well a program, project or event went, I've often heard Scouters reply, "It must have been good. I didn't see anyone crying." Or, "Really good! All the kids were smiling."

Do these observations tell us anything about our program's quality? No.

They do tell us (perhaps) how the youth reacted to the activity at an emotional level. This is important, but was it helpful? Did they learn? Without quality standards we're forced to make assumptions about the effectiveness of the learning. We all know the dangers of assumptions.

Establish Standards

Our first step should be to establish quality standards. Make use of specific statements about what constitutes an effective program, event or project. Ask yourself: What do we want it to accomplish in terms of knowledge, skill development, and attitudinal change?

It's a big task but very worthwhile. Council Scouters, in consultation with section Scouters, would normally be responsible for setting program quality standards. Once standards have been set for the programs, we can begin identifying what kinds and levels of knowledge, skill and attitudes section Scouters will need to reach the set standards. The results of this process become the "performance standards." Using the performance standards as a benchmark, the trainers can start determining individual Scouter competency levels.

The trainers must develop objective methods for measuring the skills of Scouters in terms of the performance standards. The difference, if any, constitutes the "learning/training needs."

From here trainers must determine the most effective way(s) to help Scouters meet learning needs. Here's a formula for determining learning/training needs:

$$PS - IC = LN$$

(Performance Standards minus Individual Competency equals Learning Needs.)

The terms "learning needs" and "training needs" refer to what is called "performance discrepancy" — the difference between what an individual must be able to do, and what he/she can do at a given point.

The trainer uses the Learning Needs to establish Learning Objectives that, if attained, will make a highly effective trainer.

If we take better aim at our goal, we'll hit the mark more often. Good luck in your training programs. X

From the Awards File

by Rob Stewart

Donald "Bert" MacDonald of New Glasgow, NS, received a Medal of Merit last October. Bert has served Scouting in many capacities since 1982. He began as a Troop Counselor with 5th New Glasgow; currently Bert is ADC Venturers for Pictou District. He also serves as one of the District Quartermasters, sits on the district property committee, works as the Camporee Chief and Parade Marshall.

One key facet of Bert's service has been his role developing the district canoe course. He has served as cook and canoe instructor on each of the eleven annual courses. His enthusiasm for, and knowledge of, canoeing has promoted this activity in the local Scouting community. When he was the Venturer Advisor in 3rd Stellarton all six of the original members obtained their Queen's Venturer Award.

He has spent countless hours making the district camp facilities an enjoyable place for youth. Bert's fun-loving nature motivates people, even non-Scouters, to donate their time. This insures that when work needs to be done, a dependable crew is at hand.

Bert's positive attitude in Pictou County's Scouting community affects all he meets. He strives to provide the finest program to the best of his abilities for youth in his area. Bert's community service provides an outstanding example to inspire youth so Scouting will have plenty of capable and dedicated leaders in the future.

OOPS!

In the January issue's *For Volunteer* column ("From the Awards File") we didn't say what award Jeff Dunford received. For his hard work and dedication Jeff earned the Medal of Merit. Well done Jeff.

Snowshoe Ballet?

by Ian Mitchell

Are you looking for a challenging troop activity? Snowshoeing might be exactly what you want.

Someone once said that when you first start moving on snowshoes it's like walking while wearing a diaper. It *does* feel awkward at first, but after a bit of practice snowshoeing can be a very rewarding experience.

Where to Get Snowshoes

It's not impossible to borrow snowshoes for your group. Begin by asking some local schools. (A few years ago many schools ran extensive outdoor education programs and carried a supply of snowshoes.) You might even be able to borrow them from a local recreation department or a snowshoeing club. Don't forget to ask parents and grandparents if they have any in an attic or garage. As a last resort you might try making your own snowshoes from soft spruce, pine or willow. (See *Swap Shop*, p.18 for plans.) This may take some research in a library but your Scouts will love it.

Proper Equipment

Your footwear will be the most important thing to consider. If possible, you should wear soft-bottomed, com-

fortable, well insulated boots that do not have a large heel. Because you will be walking in deep snow, a pair of gaiters will keep your lower legs and boots dry. Be sure to have a good pair of waterproof mittens so your hands will stay warm if you fall. A thermos of hot chocolate might also be an asset.

Walking in Snowshoes

Before starting to walk, put your snowshoes on by placing your toes no more than 1/3 of the way across the opening in the frame; then buckle or lace the harness to your boots.

When taking your first steps, one skill that you'll need to master is making sure not to step on one snowshoe with the other one. After that, it's easy. The correct way to snowshoe is to walk normally, taking longer (but not wider) steps. The tail of the snowshoe should drag behind, giving balance and direction, with only your heel moving up and down.

Going uphill is always a challenge. On a moderate climb, stamp your feet. This will usually prevent backward sliding. On steeper grades you can either use the herring-bone approach or simply scale the hill in a zigzag fashion.

Snowshoeing Activities

Avoid racing on snowshoes until each youth becomes comfortable with

walking. Natives didn't design snowshoes for speed; it's easy to twist an ankle or knee when falling. Short hikes make a good activity for beginners. Scouts can go at their own pace while breaking a trail. Short hikes can be especially satisfying at night. Perhaps throw in a bit of star-gazing along the route or try animal tracking by flashlight. What about a game of follow the "coureur de bois" (leader), or perhaps "track and seek" (hide and seek)? It's always fun to do map and compass work on snowshoes, or practise your first aid knowledge. How about carrying a stretcher made out of jackets and broom handles?

After some practice your kids might want to try games like "Dodgeball" and "Fox and Goose." If you have some fun games that your Scouts play on snowshoes (or even in boots during the winter), tell us about them. We'll pass them along to other readers. X



Photo: Michael Jolly

You can't beat snowshoeing if you're looking for an excellent camp activity.

the **leader**

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The Cost of Fresh Air

by Bryon Milliere

Get me out!

Young people want to be outside as much as possible. Group committees can provide the necessary support for an ambitious outdoor program, but money decisions are sometimes the most challenging ones a group committee faces.

The Cost of Air

Fresh air is free. When you travel great distances in search of fresh air, naturally the cost increases. The Beaver program is the least expensive program to operate per member because most outdoor activities are nearby. Scout and Venturer air is often the most expensive because destinations may require long trips. As the program becomes more mobile (e.g. hiking and canoeing), the cost of equipment *increases* as the weight of the equipment *decreases*.

Fundraising

Who raises money in your group? The younger the members, the greater their effectiveness at traditional fundraisers such as Apple Days, calendar

sales and Scoutrees for Canada. Older youth are better at fundraising efforts that require physical exertion or service. Part of what makes Beavers so effective is the amount of parental assistance. To involve parents in the fundraising program of older children requires more effort. You have to sell them on the purpose. Parent information nights, where leaders explain the year's program or details of a big event, can build real enthusiasm.

Spending and Budgets

If younger members are your best fund-raisers and older members are your best fund-spenders, how does your group share the resources? Prepare a budget before you start fundraising and make decisions about who will get the money. This will help you avoid many disagreements. (A budget is simply your financial plan showing what money you need to fund your program and how you expect to obtain it.) Numbers in any budget are merely "best estimates."

Remember to plan for such general group expenses as leader registrations,

leader training and recognition items. While necessary to support a solid program, these items add up quickly.

It may seem unfair that the Scouts are requesting the most support. Here are a few considerations for your debates. The ratio of Scout leaders to youth is often smaller than the number of Beaver leaders to youth. Leaders in the more senior sections tend to stay involved longer which means less investment per year for training. Some groups also provide leaders with uniforms. Another consideration is that Beavers who see the senior sections with an active program will be attracted to staying involved longer themselves.

In many groups the Scouts and Venturers provide a service role to the Beavers and Cubs by assisting with their activities, and through sharing equipment. Fostering a sense of group identification versus "every section for itself" promotes a greater sharing of both physical and human resources.

Stay focused on providing the program to youth; the kids will benefit from your efforts. Then... get them out! ^

Companions Wanted in the Worldwide Movement

by Dave Jenkinson

COMPANIONS WANTED:

Petit, shy rural Cub pack, size 12, would like to meet larger, robust urban co-ed pack. Object: Exploration and mutual fun and games. Long-term relationship possible. No triflers please. Reply with picture to Box 264.

While such an ad won't likely appear in the "Companions" section of your local paper, why couldn't it show up regularly in your council's newsletter as a vehicle for promoting "twinning" — a formal linking between two Cub packs? The packs might be in the same province/territory or even different parts of the country.

You should consider twinning. The reasons are many, but here's one. We often conclude the Tenderpad investiture ceremony by saying, "You are now a Wolf Cub and a member of the worldwide Scouting Movement." But what does the expression, "worldwide Scouting Movement," mean to that new Cub or, for that matter, to the "old" Cub hearing us spout the words again for the umpteenth time? When, where and/or how do Cubs actually experience a sense of belonging to that larger organization of which we so glibly speak? District/regional camps and perhaps events like Hikes-for-Hunger do provide occasional opportunities for casual interaction with other packs, but where are the on-going contacts? That's where twinning comes into play.

What Do You Want?

If you're prepared to consider twinning, ask yourself two questions: What do you "want" from your twin? What are you prepared to "give" in return?

A good place to begin answering these questions is during a brainstorming session of the Sixers' Council or the entire pack. You might discover that your Cubs' "wants" indirectly relate to achieving some requirements related to badges, stars and awards. An immediate and obvious tie-in can be found in the new Canadian Heritage Badge where, for instance, requirement #8 states: "Contact a Cub in another part of Canada. Ask the Cub what Canada is like there, and what the people like to do." That initial contact could then lead to 4.b. where the two Cubs could swap information about their communities to satisfy the requirement: "Make a presentation about a city (i.e. community) in Canada other than where you live."

Perhaps their "want" will relate to travel. Your pack might identify a community that they would like to visit (Canadian Heritage Badge 4.a).

Give And Take

The flip side of "getting" is "giving." Usually both twinned packs will qualify for identical stars, badges and awards so the travel part of the question may require more thinking. Because we sometimes take our home neighbourhood for granted, thinking of it as boring, Cubs can gain a real sense of pride as they respond to questions such as, "What might a Cub from somewhere else like to see and do in our community?"

Record all answers on a flip chart while your pack plays the game of trying to look at the community through a stranger's eyes and as the ideas start to emerge. Everyone will probably be surprised by how much you have to offer at different times of the year. Don't discard any activity idea (e.g. a place to visit) as being too "dull." A Cub living far away might consider it really thrilling. What emerges from this exercise can then become the "menu" that you send to your twin to help them

decide what they want to do when they visit. You could illustrate the menu with photos or via videos taken by Cubs who are working on their Photographer Badge (requirements 2, 6 & 8).

The planning process, travelling and inter-pack visits will provide numerous opportunities for meeting the ten goals of the Wolf Cub program. Of course, it's when the two packs meet that the fun really begins. Joint camping, billeting with a new buddy or sleeping on the floor of a pack's meeting place each provide the framework for the activities enjoyed by both packs. In addition to the tangible souvenirs Cubs will take home at the end of the visit will be numerous memories of sharing and good times. This will give personal meaning to the phrase, the "worldwide Scouting Movement." ^

— Dave Jenkinson is a Scouter in Winnipeg, MB, who writes our bimonthly Book Talk column.

MOVING?

Please let us know. Print your new address in the space provided. Tape the address label that now appears on the cover of your LEADER in the box marked "Previous Address".

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GETTING DOWN TO BUSINESS

by Ben Kruser

Some of you may be a little surprised to see my byline on this *Supply News* column rather than on my usual *Sharing*, *Paksak* and *Outdoors* columns. Last November I was asked to serve as the interim Manager of Supply Services after some national staff changes. In future *Supply News* columns I will not only tell you about new products and services, but also provide a behind-the-scenes look at the national level as we try to meet your program needs.

Last fall Supply Services ran into stocking difficulties in two areas:

- Cub badges
- Beaver/youth uniform items.

In the case of Cub badges, purchasing records show that many orders placed in September were four times the previous three years' average. While inventory had been increased to cover the introduction of the revised Cub program, the unusually large orders caught both Supply Services and our suppliers by surprise. We apologize for any inconvenience and frustration caused during the period when badges were not available. We have taken steps to minimize a repeat occurrence.

Also last fall, our main uniform supplier closed its Ottawa plant with little forewarning. This closure immediately affected our supply of Beaver hats, vests and uniform shirts. Much of our uniform is now cut in Tennessee, shipped to Costa Rica for assembly, then delivered to Canada for distribution. Again, we apologize for any inconvenience. We are exploring ways to improve the delivery systems particularly for key uniform items to avoid future supply interruptions.

To Support YOU!

In the past, Scouting had become more product-focused than consumer-focused. At its November 1995 meeting, the National Supply Services Committee reconfirmed that Supply Services exists to support both the membership and Scouting programs. When members need a product related to the program, they should look to Supply Services and their local Scout Shop as their first source. In turn, we will be working harder to solicit feedback on all products we carry and seek opinions from both members and the general public about potential products. The five- to ten-year-old market (80% of our membership) and the family camping market are two areas we will be vigorously exploring in the future.

By the time you read this, Supply Services will have completed market testing of new program activity products for next year's catalogue along with several lines of activity wear for camping and events. If you have any questions, concerns or ideas for products, please don't hesitate to contact me. Supply Services is getting down to the business of looking after our customers. ^

SCOUTER'S 5

○ **W**hat better time than Easter to consider the meaning of faith and think of ways to apply it in our lives?

Use these thoughts to close your meetings, to generate group discussion or to think up a new skit or play in your group.

○ **One Solitary Life**

○ Born in an obscure village, He was the child of a peasant woman. He worked in a carpenter shop until He was thirty years old, and then for three years He travelled around the country, stopping long enough to talk and to listen to people, and help where He could. He never wrote a book; He never had a hit record; He never went to college; He never ran for public office; He never had a family or owned a house. He never did any of the things that usually accompany greatness. But when He was only thirty-three years old, the tide of public opinion turned against Him. When He was arrested, very few wanted anything to do with Him. After the trial, He was killed with thieves. Only because a generous friend offered his own cemetery plot was there any place to bury Him. This all happened nineteen centuries ago, and yet today He is the ultimate example of love. It's no exaggeration to say that all the armies that have ever marched, all the rulers that have ever ruled, all the kings that have ever reigned, all put together have not affected the life of mankind like this One Solitary Life.

○ — *Adapted from Fred Bock.*

Scouter's 5 Minutes, p.757

March'96

GAMES

Shere Khan Goes Hunting

○ **Equipment:** Paper tails cut from newspaper in 5 cm strips.

○ **Story:** Shere Khan really likes to eat wolf cubs for dinner. Right now he is out hunting and plans to catch as many cubs as possible. The little cubs must run swiftly and surefootedly through the jungle to the other side.

○ **To Play:** Each end of the hall is a safe area. Each Cub gets a paper tail which has 5-10 cm at one end tucked into the back of his belt or pants. Choose one Cub to be Shere Khan. On the word "GO!" the Cubs with tails run to the opposite end of the hall. As this happens Shere Khan tries to capture a Cub by grabbing his tail. If a Cub's tail is caught, then he too becomes a Shere Khan. At the end of the game a whole group of Shere Khans will be pursuing only one Cub with a tail.

Shed Your Skin

○ **Story:** Like any other snake, Kaa sheds his skin at regular intervals.

○ **To play:** Cubs are in relay formation. The first Cub reaches between his legs with his right hand. The Cub behind holds that hand with his left hand and passes his right between his legs and so on to the end of the line. On a given signal, the Cub at the end of the line lies down while the others move over him not letting go. As soon as all are lying down, reverse the procedure and all get up again without breaking hands. The first six to finish and at alert is the winner.

○ — *Both of the above games from Ray Johnson, Maple Ridge, BC.*

Games, p.315

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the **leader** 

Midnight Baseball

We usually play Midnight Baseball between 8:00 and 9:30 p.m. out on a frozen lake. A full moon and a clear sky generate most of the light we need for the outfield. Flashlights help the batter see the ball being pitched. The rink we have shovelled is our ball diamond; the four corners of the rink serve as home plate and the bases. Our baseball is a large red utility ball. Everyone loves to get up to bat and, of course, everyone gets to see some great slides into the bases and home plate. Though outfield errors are numerous (due to the poor lighting), it makes for a lot of fun.

— *From Tim Leitch, Whitby, ON.*

Caterpillar Crawl

Divide your group of Beavers, Cubs or Scouts into two teams lined up in shuttle formation at either end of the hall.

The first person on each team is the head of the caterpillar. This child wears the antennae. (Make it from wire or coat hangers.) On "GO!", the first player crawls across the playing area, crawls around other team members and stops in front of the first player to let him join the caterpillar. Holding onto the leader's lower legs, the two crawl back across the playing area and around the remaining team members to pick up a third person.

Continue until all players are part of the caterpillar.

Games, p.316

Faith Is...

...Not a leap in the dark, nor a mystical experience, nor an indefinable encounter with a "spooky someone" — but trust in one who has explained himself in a person (Jesus) in an historical record (the Bible).

...Not a vague hope of a happy hereafter, but an assurance of heaven based on my trust in Jesus' death and rising from the dead.

...Refusing to feel guilty over my past wrong deeds when God, the judge, has declared me "Pardoned!"

...Not faith in faith itself, but faith in the Fact of Scripture, the Fact of Christ's death, the Fact of His resurrection.

...Not an idea that God is somehow trustworthy, but confidence in him based on his proof of utter trustworthiness in dying for me.

— *Pamela Reeve, Faith Is..., Multnomah Press.*

Beaver Action Chant

Action chants are very popular with Beavers. They love to bounce around and follow motions as they express themselves. Change and adapt the words of this chant to send the message you want your Beavers to hear this Easter.

A Beaver is short (*Squat down*)

A Beaver is tall (*Jump up high*)

A Beaver can wave (*Wave*)

A Beaver can fall (*Fall to floor*)

A Beaver can help (*Extend hand to friend*)

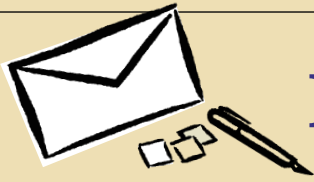
A Beaver can smile (*Smile warmly*)

A Beaver is pleasant (*Stretch arms out*)

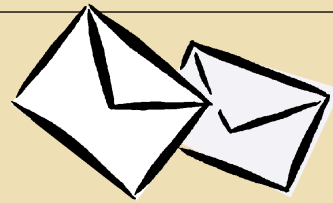
All the while.

— *Adapted from a Newfoundland and Labrador Provincial Council publication.*

Scouter's 5 Minutes, p.758



Pen Friends



Australia

A number of Australian youth (aged 11-15) would like a Canadian friend. Write to them at the following addresses: Steven McMullen (15), 35 Macleay Drive, Padbury, Duncraig 6025, Perth; Ben Fawell (13), 22 Redshaw Road, Duncraig 6023, Perth, Australia; Andrew Symes (12), 13 Colgrave Way, Duncraig 6023, Perth, Australia; Steven Ward (11), 28 Bracadile Avenue, Duncraig 6023, Perth, Australia; Daniel Bean (12), 8 Crawley Grove, Heathridge, Perth, Australia.

Bangladesh

Mahal Faruque has been fascinated with Canada since he was a very young boy. Now, as a Rover Scout interested in cultural activities, sports, games and volunteer work, he wants to make direct contact with Canadians to learn more about our country. Write to Mahal Faruque, House No. -639/1, Housing Estate, Sopura 6203, Rajshahi, Bangladesh.

Britain

Want to go to Britain? A group of Scouts from Kent would like to make some Canadian friends with the hope of an exchange visit in several years. Write to Scouter Mike Keane, 32 Burnham Walk, Rainham, Kent, U.K., ME8 8SH.

A Beaver colony wishes to learn more about Canada and our Scouting programs. Its members are also interested in exchanging crests and badges. Write to Rosey Scott, 1st Martlesham Scout Group, 47 Crown Close, Martlesham, Woodbridge, Suffolk, England, IP12 4UH.

A new Beaver colony in Hull wishes to find out about our Scouting traditions and programs. It is also interested in linking (twinning) possibilities. Contact Peter Robson, 47 Nunburnholme Park, Kingston-upon-Hull, East Yorkshire, England, HU5 5YN.

Are you interested in getting a pen pal from Britain? Roy and Joan Walker maintain a huge data base of Scouting youth wanting to write to Canadians. Address your letter to them, c/o "Waybrook", Ewing Close, Reepham, Norfolk, NR10 4JQ, phone: 0603-870352.

El Salvador

Want to exchange crests, badges, new ideas and Scouting experiences with a 23 year old Scout from El Salvador? Mauricio Rivera has been involved in the Movement in his country for 16 years. Write in English or Spanish to Mauricio Rivera, Apartado Postal 1103, Centro de Gobierno, San Salvador, El Salvador.

Germany

A German co-ed Venturer and Rover group would like to write to Canadians about fun Scouting activities. They are also interested in visiting Canada in 1997. The two contact people in this group are Stefanie Maczjajwski, Fontanestrasse 63, 42897 Remscheid-Lennep, Germany, and Lars Denner, Am Stadtwald 26, 42897 Remscheid-Lennep, Germany.

Ghana

Help! Anthony Fuseini Peter has been looking for a Canadian pen pal for a long time. He is interested in carpentry and wood-working projects. Write to Anthony at P.O. Box 280, Tamale Northern Region, Ghana.

A 17 year old Scout from Ghana would like to befriend a Canadian Venturer or Rover. Write to Emmanuel Leckey, c/o Kwane Amegat-si, P.O. Box 204, Mamprobi, Accra North, Ghana.

Benjamin Mensah, a 17 year old Scout, would like to learn more about our programs and exchange Scout Handbooks. Write to Benjamin K. Mensah, Kotobabi '11' J.S.S., P.O. Box 10785, Accra North, Ghana.

Japan

A 12 year old Japanese Scout, interested in stamp collecting and getting to know others around the world, would like to write to you. Reply in English. Write to Yoshitumi Kurose, 3-14 Kayaba Shiyukusha, 2-2-8 Kitachikusa Chou, Chikusaki Nagoya City, Aichi 464, Japan.

Netherlands

A 28 year old "WaterScout" leader would like to find out about our programs, activities and life. Write to Els van Dijk, Wandelakker 52, 4824 SG Breda, The Netherlands.

Nigeria

Sani Saidu, a Nigerian Scouter (age 28), would like to write to some Canadian Scouters with district training responsibilities. Sani is in charge of Scouter training programs in his area. He is interested in trading ideas, programs and badges. Write to Sani Saidu, P.O. Box 312 Maiduguri, Borno State, Nigeria.

Russia

Rover Scout, Vadim Lebed would like a Canadian pen pal. He's interested in soccer, travelling, listening to music, and collecting coins and stamps. Write to him at Sovietskaya St., 28-8, Kom-somolsk-on-Amur, Habarovsk Kray 681029, Russia.

Sierra Leone

If you have some interesting Sea Scout activities you want to share, here's a good contact. Groups in Sierra Leone want to know how Canadians experience Scouting. They particularly want to find out more about camps, programs and Sea Scouts. Write in English or French to Bob Anthony, c/o 9 Mill Street, Free Town, Sierra Leone.

Zambia

If you're between the ages of 16-21, this is your chance to make two Zambian friends. Chris Motonga and Milton Musukwa would like to exchange letters and photos, and collect stamps. Both are interested in hiking, travelling, listening to music and learning about other countries. Write to Chris Motonga (17), 10 Mangu Street, Nohanga North, Chingola, Zambia, or Milton Musukwa (21), 44 Musuku Street, Kabundi South, Chingola, Zambia. X

Please Note

The Leader provides the *Pen Friends* column as a forum to exchange addresses between pen pals. The Leader does not conduct any investigation prior to listing these names and assumes no responsibilities with respect to contacts made.

Meeting Space Is No Problem

by Fred Garwood

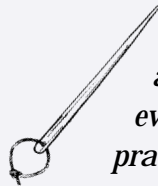
A lack of meeting space and facility rental fees is a growing problem. These both hurt community Scouting groups. The 1st Waterloo Troop (Yamaska Valley District, PQ) has found a great solution.

When Scouters Bruce Hughes and Jean Paul Donais were faced with nowhere for their troop to meet they decided to gather in an old tennis court in a wooded area near the centre of town. The parish of St. Luke's Anglican Church offered it to them.

The tennis court area (35 m x 15 m) provides a compact site for activities, including year-round weekly meetings on Saturday mornings. The troop has a medium sized tarp for rainy weather, a campfire/cooking area, a hygienic kyo and a tall flagpole. Once a month, our Scouts camp at the site for the weekend. During these camps they attend the Sunday church service.

As well as experiencing basic Scout training (e.g. badge work) the site abounds in wildlife. Many birds, squirrels, chipmunks, marmots and rabbits

live nearby. Luckily, nature study is high on the Scouts' agenda. Trails and tent sites have been made over the years through the woodland, which extends for two acres. The undulating terrain offers great areas for building bridges. The woodland has also provided many opportunities to learn about woodland



A fid makes an excellent evening craft when practising knots.

management, timely thinning and removal of dead timber, and replanting in the Scoutrees program.

The site is ideal for practising handicrafts and traditional pioneering projects. Scouts have mastered a wide range of knots and compete in blind-fold knotting tests for which awards are given: 6 knots earn a bronze fid (a simple tool used for loosening knots — see diagram), 10 knots earn a silver fid and 14 knots earn a golden fid. We

make the fids from 2 cm dowel. Another award: after 25 nights of camping or 25 hours of community work, members are given an imitation bear fang carved from beef bone.

Other projects at the tennis court include building a site gateway, making bird houses and feeders, and a small garden layout using natural composting. Our members are developing a sense of personal pride, achievement and responsibility. They're building an appreciation of their potential as group members in the traditional spirit of B.-P. [^]

— Scouter Fred Garwood lives in Waterloo, PQ.

Editor's Note

Not every group has access to an abandoned tennis court surrounded by two acres of land, but the way this troop has taken advantage of an opportunity should inspire others. What a great example how to put the OUT in ScOUTing.

A District Commissioner's Thoughts

After serving for over eight years, I've made some disappointing observations. When leaders join the Movement, they come with a huge amount of enthusiasm; but many leave miserable, tired and upset. Most of them are nice, kind people who want to contribute to society and give children both a good program and lifetime memories. When they leave, many feel ripped off. Sometimes they have let politics and personalities blind them to Scouting's real purpose — our youth.

People like this should never have joined the Movement. Even though we never seem to get enough leaders, perhaps we should take greater care when picking them and watch the ones we have. We don't need leaders with poor attitudes.

— Charles Gregson, Mission, BC.

The Unknown Chinese Scout

I joined Scouting in 1917 and eventually became Scoutmaster of our local troop. Through the years, there's one Chinese Scout I can't forget.

In 1938 I was working in China as the Medical Officer for the Independent International Settlement on Kulangsu in Amoy Harbour. I was also a major in the Chinese National Army Medical Corps. The Japanese were attacking. Hundreds of thousands of refugees were pouring in from surrounding areas. Chaos reined.

Suddenly a man confronted me. "What are you going to do about Miss Liang?!" he asked desperately. (Miss Liang was the Matron of the military base's hospital.) "You're the only officer left who can give her orders."

The man told me that the Chinese High Command had ordered all officers to retire inland. Everyone had complied, including the doctors, except Miss Liang. She refused to leave the wounded behind; she also refused to let her nurses go. This man was engaged to one of the nurses.

The hospital lay across the huge harbour. After preparing a place to bring the wounded, I waded through the crowds on the jetty and ran to my sea-going launch.

"Where to?" asked the Quartermaster as he took the wheel.

"Amoy Military Hospital," I ordered.

"No! They're shelling it!" he roared.

Leaving the wheel, he shouted to the crew and they all abandoned ship.

I turned to the assembled crowd and yelled, "I'm going to Amoy. Who's coming with me?"

Through the noise, one boyish voice rang out, "I'll come." Sudden silence fell as a Chinese Boy Scout in uniform emerged from the crowd and joined me on deck. He offered a smart three-fingered Scout salute, which I returned. "Start the engines. I'll cast off," I said.

Without a word the fourteen year old boy ran to start the powerful engines.

That produced a miracle. The Chief Engineer climbed back on board and joined in. Seeing him, the entire crew came back.

Under intense bombardment, we evacuated the hospital with all the wounded, staff, equipment and supplies. Miss Liang and I were the last to leave. As we walked to the waiting boat a Japanese fighter dived on us with guns blazing. The bullets ripped into the cement at our feet, but we made it back to safety.

It was that young Chinese Scout who saved the day. He made the difference and helped save many lives. I never saw him again.

— G. Graham-Cumming, North Vancouver, BC.

Day or Night, Sign 'Em Up

Our new Group Committee President had spent a busy day registering people and answering the normal questions parents, leaders and youth have about the program. Her system involved handing out the forms, then answering questions as they returned completed.

Back at home, she fell asleep exhausted. One of her children entered her bedroom and woke her. Without hesitation she told the child to fill out a form and save questions until it was completed! ^

— B.H. Sloan, Porcupine Plain, SK.