

# the leader

DECEMBER 1996

VOLUME 27, NO. 4



*Season's Greetings*

# Joy to the World!

by John Pettifer

As I write these year-end thoughts, the leaves are just changing colour and Thanksgiving is occupying my mind more than the snows of December. But this isn't a bad time to consider the previous twelve months.

Many terrific things have happened. Just think about,

- all the young people who have grown and developed because of the programs you provided,
- all those Scouting people who helped you behind the scenes,
- your own growth as a leader,
- family and loved ones who supported your Scouting endeavours.

If you are a member of a group committee, service team or council, please thank those leaders who, week by week, brought the Scouting adventure alive in your community.

### Give Thanks...

This year we have a special reason to give thanks. For the first time since the early 1980's *Scouting membership has increased in every section!* Youth membership increased by more than 5,000, while adult leaders increased by over 400!

The Strategic Directions gave us real focus, pointing all our efforts toward a central goal. With all major councils on the same course, we are beginning

to see very positive results in the areas of membership, program development, finances, communications and management. We base everything on our Mission to help young people develop themselves mentally, physically, spiritually and socially.

As we move into the year end, let us take strength from knowing that together we are making a positive difference in the lives of more young people than ever. If we believe Scouting has the greatest youth program in Canada, we should be proud of who we are, and for what we stand. Canada is a better country because of what we are doing.

### ...With a Grateful Heart

But who do we thank? Let's thank each other. We probably don't thank each other enough. But also take time to give thanks to the God whom you have promised to love and to serve as a member of the Movement.

At this time of year, many of us feel especially close to our God. Although we worship in many different ways, the end of the year is often a time for spiritual renewal. For Christians, it is a time to celebrate the birth of the Christ, the one whom Christians regard as Lord and Saviour. For Jewish members, early December is a time for the Feast of Lights, Hanukkah. It's a time to give thanks for religious freedom. For Islamic members, Nisf-Sha'-ban (the Night of Repentance) begins on December 24, preparing them for Ramadan. Most other religions have feasts or celebrations at this time of the year — more reasons for giving thanks.

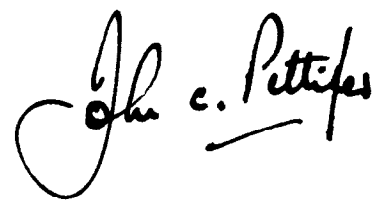
### Merry Christmas!

Last year Vancouver students identified more than 40 ways to say "Merry Christmas", including *Stretan boznici* (Croatian) and *Wesolyck Swiat Bozego Narodzenia Szczęśliwego Nowegu Roku* (Polish). Students in this multiracial school who compiled the list felt that the Christmas message was universal, and transcended countries, cultures and faiths.

While we may all celebrate in different ways, and celebrate for different reasons, Christmas is a time for family, for spiritual reflection, and for the spirit of goodwill that the world so desperately needs. It's a time to give thanks.

To you and your family, from all of us at the National Office, "*Matswalo A Morenas A Maboitse*", or, if you don't speak North Sotho, "*A Merry Christmas*." May you feel God's blessing on you and your family throughout the holiday. May peace, joy and goodwill be yours.

For each of you, I give thanks and say, "God bless you." ^



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**The wonders of Winterfest**

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# UN-FORGETTABLE CAMPING ADVENTURE OR WINTER NIGHTMARE?

Sometimes  
it's your  
choice

by Andrew Ross

A warm campfire crackled at our feet. Steam from mugs of hot chocolate gently sent aromatic scents drifting into our nostrils. A bright, round moon floated overhead, while a hunting owl hooted in the distance.

Aahhhh! Wilderness camping at its absolute best. Life doesn't get better than this.

It was a frosty February evening, 50 kilometres from the nearest northern Ontario town. After a long day of hiking, our tired but satisfied Venturers were camped in deep snow on the side of Baden-Powell Lake in Algonquin Provincial Park. We were basking in glory.

Why?

Only a month before we read a challenge in Ontario's *Provincial Notes* (February '96). No Scouting group had registered its visit at Baden-Powell Lake since 1969. Who would be the first to reach this remote lake? The challenge kindled our imaginations.

Poring over maps, at first we talked about a spring canoe trip. "We could do it easily," everyone agreed, "though at least ten other Scouting groups would beat us to the Baden-Powell Lake log book." Besides, about 80 million blood-sucking insects would be lying in wait along the way too.

An almost-immediate winter hike was the only way to win the challenge. "Let's go!" everyone said enthusiastically. In about three weeks our group had to put together and carry out an affective action plan.

Foolhardy? The middle of winter, you say, is no time to hastily plan a difficult hike into a remote lake?

In most cases, that's correct. But our Venturers are seasoned wilderness trekkers. Our full outdoor program had prepared them for unexpected first aid

emergencies, cold weather camping, and long-distance hikes through snow. Here are some of the activities we've built into our yearly program that prepares everyone for strenuous, but enjoyable and safe, outdoor trips.

## "Sorry. You're not ready."

Only those with backpacking and winter camping experience should try an extended winter hike. Winter is *not* a good season to learn from mistakes when you're hours from help, the temperature is dropping and a storm is blowing in. Take youth on *at least* two good winter outdoor camping trips and one lightweight overnight hike before trying a longer winter hike.

Spend lots of time touring on skis and snowshoes. Start off by getting familiar with travelling short distances; relay games are terrific for building confidence and balance. Experience hills and winding trails, not just flat fields; then advance to longer treks with packs and stoves — still during the day.

Scouters leading an extended winter backpacking trip must be seasoned winter campers. This is no time for merely theoretical knowledge. If you don't have the expertise, seek advice from local outdoor clubs and build up experience on weekend trips near your home.

How far can you travel in a day? What foods are easy to prepare? Which are better: skis or snowshoes? How long does it take to make a shelter? What clothes work well? Would a toboggan help? How much stove fuel do you need? It's sometimes dangerous to answer these questions in the warmth of your living room.



## Cautious, Not Stupid

If you plan to travel over ice, be careful. Ice is often thickest in late winter, but check for local conditions.

Late winter offers more daylight than early winter does. The snow is also more dense after a few thaws; this makes for easier travelling. But an unexpected thaw can cause grief if you're caught in the middle of one.

Photo: Andrew Ross



How? Snow will stick to your skis and the webbing of your snowshoes may turn soggy and slacken. When you fall, you'll get wet.

Plan an alternate hike date. A wise leader will cancel a trip if the weather threatens to turn unpredictable.

Winter travel on snowshoes or skis is much less troublesome than summer hiking. Frozen and buried under snow, most swamps and bogs become open snow plains that will easily support your weight.

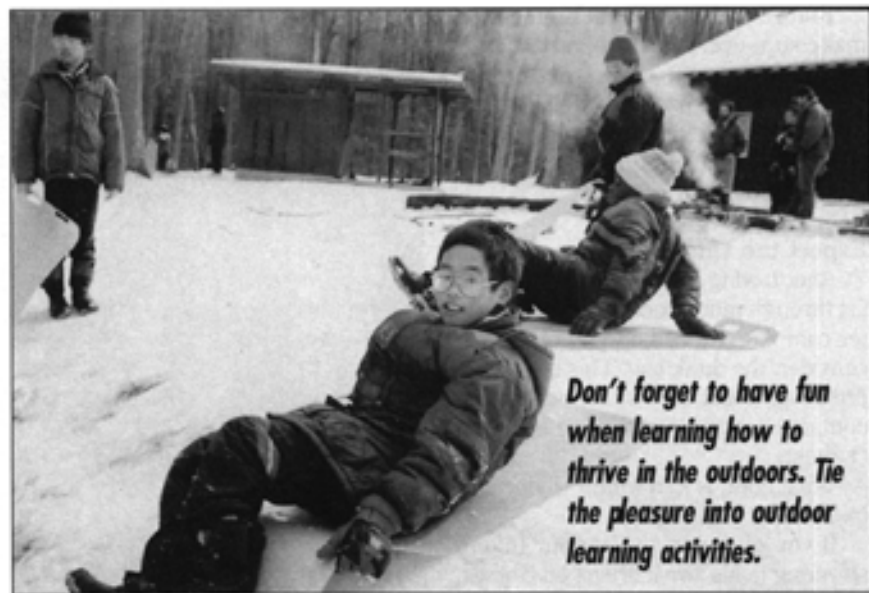
Lakes and streams can be crossed, but find out about local conditions. You don't want a strong underwater current to turn your weekend adventure into a nightmare. Generally speaking, if ice can carry a snowmobile it's probably safe for walking. Consider rivers a barrier to your trip: moving water prevents thick ice build-up. They can be very dangerous.

### Busy Having Fun

Boredom is seldom a problem during winter backpacking treks. The game is called "survival"; the craft is "comfort". If you allow six hours for hiking, you'll have just enough time to make camp and cook meals before everyone is ready to hibernate.

Count on at least twice the normal time for food preparation. Remember: someone has to melt every drop of water for meals and washing. Add a little extra time for,

- fumbling with mitts
- reduced stove efficiency, and
- heat loss from your pot.



**Don't forget to have fun when learning how to thrive in the outdoors. Tie the pleasure into outdoor learning activities.**

Photo: Tom Evenden

Water is scarce. In winter you walk on it and it falls from the sky, but campers must expend considerable time and effort converting it to a liquid to drink or put into your soup.

Thirst is a common problem for winter hikers. Use the hike to discuss dehydration. Talk about how to both avoid it and recognize the warning signs. Be prepared with lots of fuel and a stove ready to go at lunch breaks. Keep in mind that propane stoves don't work well in the cold.

### A Sheltered Life

Snow shelters (e.g. igloos or quinzhees) can be warm and comfortable, but are often the last thing you want to have to build after hiking or skiing through deep snow all day. A snow

shelter might take most of a day to make unless you build a hole-in-a-drift type. These are excellent shelters to construct if you plan an extra day into your hiking schedule for lazing around camp.

A tent may add weight to your pack, but it is quick protection from snow and wind. You can even get away with a good tarp and some ropes. (No need for bug netting in February!) If necessary, build a wall from snow blocks to protect yourself from the wind.

Take your sunscreen and glasses! These will help prevent snow blindness and painful facial burns. Establish a buddy system. At regular stops along your route, buddies should check each other's faces for burns and frostbite.



**A well-planned winter trip includes time for play. Otherwise, why go?!**

Photo: Glenn Foster

Before setting out each morning, make sure everyone has layered their clothing correctly. The extra effort of carrying a backpack can quickly lead to overheating and perspiration — a must to avoid. Keep a warm parka ready to put on at breaks.

### Expect the Unexpected

After having refined your equipment list through much backpacking and winter camping, there's one more item to consider: the dunk bag. This is a waterproof bag (often used by canoeists) that contains a complete change of warm clothes.

What good is it to winter wilderness trekkers?

If you discover one of your hikers shivering in his sweat-drenched clothes, or a snowshoe punches through the icy crust into water, a dunk bag will prove invaluable. It will help stop hypothermia. Include one in your first aid kit, as well as a waterproofed fire-starter.

If travelling over ice, carry lengths of rope (clipped to a front strap of your backpack) so you can toss it out quickly to someone who has broken through. Play out this scenario before heading onto the ice so everyone knows the procedure.

Standing in contented silence around a flickering campfire on Baden-Powell Lake, our Venturers felt a warm glow of accomplishment. We had accepted an unexpected challenge, planned the winter hike and reached our goal before any other Scouting group. But more important, we did it safely and had fun.

Why don't you plan a winter hiking and camping trip right now? Over the next several months focus your program around activities that will prepare everyone for the event. (See the new Scout JUMPSTART packages, available at Scout Shops, for ideas.)

Weather and snow conditions play a big part in winter camping, but the most important key has never changed... *be well prepared.*

#### Program Links

Cubs: Green Star, Camping Badge, Hiking Badge, Winter Cubbing  
 Scouts: Adventuring Badge, Winter Scouting Badge, Exploring Badge, Campcraft Badge  
 Venturers: Canadian Trails Award, Exploration Activity Award.

— Andrew Ross is an advisor for Ontario's 4th Goderich Venturers.



Photo: Paul Ritchie

**Fire-building is a vital skill everyone should master before tackling a wilderness camping trip. First demonstrate the correct procedure, then let each Cub or Scout get hands-on experience.**

## BEGIN SLOWLY AND BUILD

**W**inter camping and hiking offer some special dangers. Ease your Cubs, Scouts and Venturers into it slowly. A poorly-planned winter weekend outing can destroy all interest a youth might have in winter camping. Start by building a series of program evenings around themes they must master before tackling a serious weekend hike.

Topics might include:

- winter first aid (e.g. frostbite, hypothermia)

- emergency shelters (quinzhees, snow houses)
- ice rescues
- skiing and snowshoeing
- winter camping techniques.

Don't push people in your group beyond their capabilities. Winter can be terribly unforgiving! Most youth know how hard they want to work. When they start hitting the brakes and losing interest, listen. The point is to *enjoy the wilderness*, not accomplish some painful goal.

## WINTER COMPASS CLUE GAME



by Charles McPhee

**A**t a winter camp last year, Scouts from the 1st Scotchtown Troop in New Waterford, NS, improved their compass reading skills. It was a great way to prepare for a more advanced, wilderness camp. (This game takes time for Scouters to set up.)

We told the Scouts that a prospector had buried gold in the snow. The youth had to follow compass bearings to a series of clues — one for each person. Working in teams, they set off. After following a compass direc-

tion and locating the clue (hidden just below the snow), the Scouts had to decipher the mystery before another youth could set off on the next heading. (Instead of clues, you might set up a series of winter survival camping questions.)

After the last clue had been found, the Scouts dug up their treasure — chocolate bars wrapped in gold foil.

— Charles McPhee is a Scouter from New Waterford, NS.

# ALBERTA WINTERFEST FUN DAY

by Della Deminichuk

**W**inter can be a harsh, uninviting time of year. Before you start thinking that the weather won't improve enough to enjoy the outdoors until spring, listen to what the 3rd Red Deer Aspen Heights Beavers planned.

February or March would be perfect for your own Saturday or Sunday Winterfest Day. Why not invite several neighbouring Beaver colonies?

Twenty-five Beavers along with numerous parents, siblings and leaders, spent a frolicsome afternoon enjoying Red Deer's Rotary Park. An inviting campfire was blazing when everyone arrived. After the opening, we divided the children into colour-coded teams, then they rotated through activity stations at 20 minute intervals.

## Promising Obstacle Course

Using the massive playground equipment at the park, Tic Tac led the children on a very energetic race. At various places along the way, each Beaver had to recite the Beaver Law, Motto and Promise.

## Snow Sculpture

Rusty organized a snow sculpturing extravaganza. Fortunately the weather was perfect for shaping snow and sticking on noses and arms.

What did the children make?

Of course... giant snow Beavers. These proved to be excellent mascots for our group picture. When you plan your Winterfest Day, use coloured water to add realism to snow sculptures.

## Mobile Crafts

Working on picnic tables, each group cut out winter shapes (e.g. snow



*Schools often let Scouting groups borrow their outdoor equipment. Snowshoes and skis are ever-popular.*

*Photo: Allen Macartney*

men, fur trees), glued on tufts of cotton (when appropriate) and tied the ornaments on coat hangers.

## Walk and Watch

A favourite of everyone involved a

nature walk through the woods. On their journey the children were asked to:

- find and name two different birds,
- find and name two different animals' tracks,
- bring back one piece of litter,
- find a bird nest (but don't touch it),
- locate food a bird could eat in winter.

## Share the Goodies

Each family brought a plate of cookies or sandwiches to share during our snack break. Hot chocolate warmed everyone's blood. After filling their tummies, each Beaver lodge taught the others several favourite songs to sing around the campfire.

Closing ceremonies ended the afternoon. Everyone went home tired, but very satisfied. What a success! Our Winterfest is going to be an annual event. ^

— *Della Deminichuk (Rainbow) plays in the snow with Beavers from Red Deer, Alberta.*

## MORE WINTER GAMES by Hazel Hallgren

**T**hese games are perfect indoors or out.

### Santa Relay

You'll need a pair of boots, a Santa hat, a sack, and a few toys to put in the sack. Form your Beavers into their lodge groups. The boots should be in front of the first Beaver in each line, the hat a few steps away, followed by the sack, then the toys.

On "Go", the first Beaver puts on the boots, then the hat, grabs the sack and puts the toys inside. She then runs around her lodge group and back, placing the toys first, then the sack, the hat and the boots, all in the same order she found them.

The game continues until all Beavers have had a turn. Then everyone sits and chants: Ho! Ho! Ho!

### Potato Sack Bobsleds

For this game, you'll need a sack for each Beaver — a magic carpet if played outside. Beavers must get inside the sacks (on the magic carpet), and pretend to be bobsleds sliding on the floor (snow). Divide the group into tall levels for relay sprints.

You can play bobsled soccer (like Crab Soccer) finishing with one horse (leader, Keeo, Beaver) bobsled rides.



# Spiritual Growth in December?

## *It's Not Mission Impossible!*

by Allen Macartney

**D**ecember is a month filled with panicked bedlam: buying gifts, standing in lines, wrapping presents. Do we ever take time to consider the real meaning of the season?

Mother Teresa of Calcutta (a person who many think embodies the present-day meaning of Christmas charity) says silence is vital for healthy, wholesome living. In her words, "We all need time for silence, to reflect and to pray."

Discuss this in relation to the upcoming holiday season. Are rush and panic what the wise men were hoping to bring the baby Jesus when they brought their gifts?

### 20th Century Crèche Scene

Rediscover the spiritual dimension of Christmas by re-creating a 20th century version of Jesus' birth. Instead of a lonely stable and a manger, perhaps you could set the scene in a small-town garage. Read the "Huron Christmas Story" found in last year's *Leader* magazine Scouter's Five pages (pp. 35-6). Not only will it give you ideas, but youth love the story.

Lay baby Jesus in a large tool box. Gather his loving parents around him. Winter campers could represent the shepherds who were told of the Messiah's birth on a hillside. An angel choir could provide background music with a guitar and recorder.

### Pop-Up Card

Everyone loves pop-up cards. Help your Beavers and Cubs make one for this season. Scouts might want to make a giant one from refrigerator boxes for a Bethlehem play.

Start with stiff card stock or bristol board. Cut it into 8½ x 11 rectangles

— one or two for each child. Fold the paper or card stock in half. With scissors, cut two parallel, equal length slits from the folded side. (See diagram) Push these through into the card, then cut out a figure (e.g. cow, manger, Mary, Joseph, shepherds) and glue it to the pop-up. (See diagram) Make more slits and cut out more figures.

The Cubs planned the meals themselves, organized a fundraising event, then went shopping for the food.

"But who should we give this to," someone asked.

Taking care not to mention any names, their minister described several poor families in the area, telling the Cubs in very general terms about the family circumstances, number of people and their need. This was done to make the gifts more personally meaningful to the Cubs, while preserving the privacy and dignity of the poor families.

"The Cubs loved the project," said Scouter Robert Cano. "It gave them a genuine sense of having helped real people in our community." Why not let your group experience a similar satisfaction this month? Start planning now.

### Help the Poor

Here's a song adapted from a tune by Alberta Scouter Hazel Hallgren. Beavers may want to add their own verses and actions. (Tune: *Row your boat*)

Help, help, help the poor  
That's the way to live  
Feeding, smiling, cheerily  
serving  
Help to others give.

Care, care, care for them  
In every way you can  
Sharing toys and building  
friendships  
Ease their daily load.

### Listening Skills

Before we can learn to understand others, we must first learn to really *listen* to them. But listening isn't easy. This game will help.

Divide your group into pairs. (Don't allow close friends to match up.) Each person has two minutes to give as many personal details about his life as possible (e.g. age, hobbies, birthday, likes, favourite foods). At the end of two minutes the pair should switch



## *Christmas is more than Santa Claus and tinsel.*

Photo: B. Bobrevich

Colour the background of your card so you have a beautiful three-dimensional scene. (*How to Make Super Pop-Ups*, Kids Can Press, is a terrific resource book for your library.)

### Secret Santas

Last year, Cubs from the 36th Ottawa Glebe St. James' Pack decided they wanted to help needy people in their neighbourhood. After much discussion they decided to provide three Christmas meals (as well as gifts) for two families.

around. When both have had a turn, pairs should gather again in their larger group and list as many personal details from the other person's life. Each detail earns a point.

Discuss these questions afterwards: Why is listening so difficult? Do sights and sounds distract you? Why is an attentive listener so flattering? Is an attentive listener's behaviour actually saying, "You're important"? What can you do to focus more on the speaker?

### Important Words

Words can strengthen friendships or tear them down. Use these thoughts from Scouter Guy Mandeville (Kingston, ON) as a meeting closing or to launch a wider discussion.

The six most important words:

"I admit I made a mistake."

The five most important words:

"You did a good job!"

The four most important words:

"What is your opinion?"

The three most important words:

"If you please."

The two most important words:

"Thank you!"

The one most important word: We.

The one *least* important word: I.

### "How can I thank you?"

Christmas is a time of both receiving gifts and thanking others for their generosity and thoughtfulness. Brainstorm with those in your group to think up *unusual* ways to publicly recognize goodness in others.

Help youth in your group to send a fax, an e-mail message, or a homemade pop-up card that appreciates someone's friendliness to them.

This month as we "celebrate the child who is the light" (Michael Card, *The Final Word*), look for ways to spread His light around your local community.

In the words of Mother Teresa: "Let there be kindness in you: kindness in your face, in your eyes, in your smile, in the warmth of your greeting. Give others not only your care, but also your heart." ^

### Program Links

Cubs: Purple Star (A-5), Purple Star (B-4), Purple Star (B-7), Artist Badge 7.  
Scouts: Citizenship Badge, Artist Badge.

## Encouraging Word Search

**R**ead the following famous verses several times in your group, then find all the italicized words in the puzzle. Give Cubs up to 5 minutes to locate the words, give Scouts only 3. (Words may appear horizontally and vertically.)

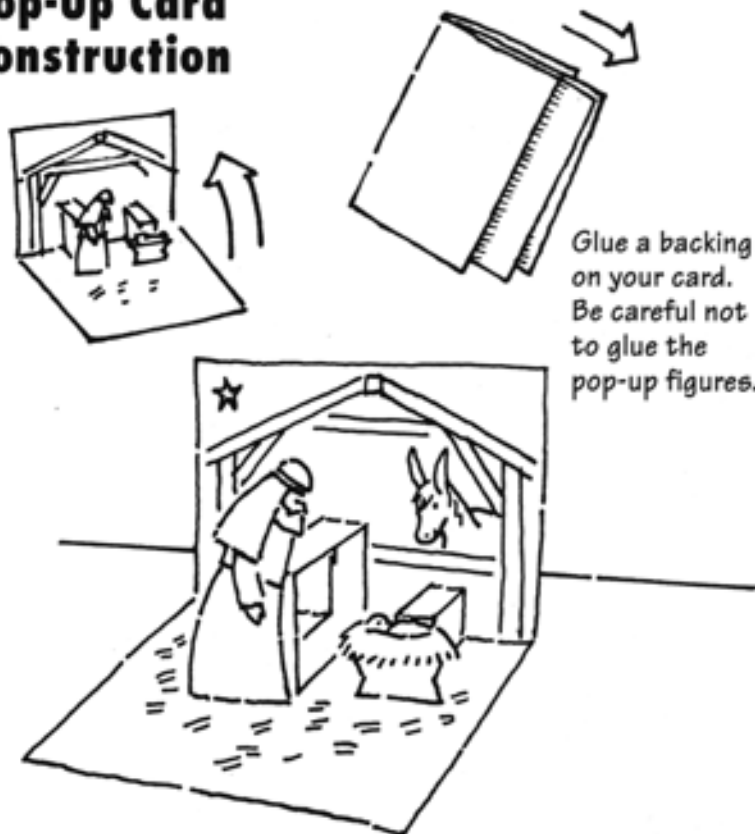
"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in wrong, but rejoices in the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails." (1 Corinthians 13: 4-8)

S	E	L	F	S	E	E	K	I	N	G	P
W	R	O	N	G	S	M	I	L	E	A	E
P	B	V	C	K	D	E	A	N	G	E	R
A	D	E	L	I	G	H	T	F	G	H	S
T	I	H	J	N	K	T	R	U	D	E	E
I	L	E	M	D	N	A	U	B	C	N	V
E	A	L	B	O	A	S	T	H	E	V	E
N	P	P	I	O	U	A	H	O	E	Y	R
T	R	U	S	T	S	I	O	P	U	A	E
E	O	A	U	P	R	O	T	E	C	T	S
A	U	Y	S	H	A	R	E	S	I	O	U
T	D	R	E	J	O	I	C	E	S	A	B

Divide these words into two categories: helpful and hurtful. What does each group of words have in common? How do they differ? What message do these words tell on their own? Discuss in small groups how you can start applying the helpful words in your neighbourhood. Think up practical examples to start working on. Tie them into badge work.

Three other words are hidden within this puzzle. Can you find them? They are gifts that any Beaver, Cub or Scout can give to others. (share, help, smile)

## Pop-Up Card Construction



# Woggle Mania!

**L**ooking for the perfect Scouting Christmas gift? Perhaps your winter camp needs a special craft to emphasize your theme. Does your Flag Day program need an extra lift?

Get your group to make woggles! Whether made to give away, to express artistic creativity, or to set a Scouting fashion statement, woggles are popular with all ages. They're also an easy way to work on badges. Here are some suggestions.

## Wolf Head

Gary Siegle of Winnipeg, MB, shared this woggle idea, designed by Rob and Joanne Poapst. You'll need: thin pieces of leather, pencil, scissors, utility knife, and a wood-burning or soldering gun.

Trace the woggle pattern onto the leather with a pencil. Cut it out with scissors. With leader supervision, burn the wolf pattern (see illustration) into the leather. Get leaders to make an "I" cut in one end of the woggle. Slip the arrow end through the "I" slot to fasten it.

## Santa Woggle

New Brunswick Beavers from the 1st New Maryland Colony sent in this popular woggle. Cubs too would enjoy making it. The woggle is easily adaptable to make elves or other figures.

For each you'll need: a film canister, 7.5 cm x 2 cm coloured felt (for face), glue gun, markers, cotton (beard), 2 googly eyes (7 mm), 1 red (nose) and 1 white (hat ball) pom-pom or bead. Cut the film canister in half: one half for Santa's face, the other to thread a necker through.

Cut out a strip of felt for Santa's face; glue it around the canister. Cut out Santa's hat and colour it with the markers. Glue it onto Santa's face, as well as his beard, eyes and nose. Glue the second half of the canister onto the back of the woggle so it will hold a Beaver necker. (See illustration)

## Animal Woggles

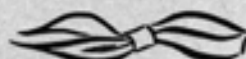
Jean Layman (from Georgetown, ON) sent patterns for three animal woggles that Beavers or Cubs can make from leather or vinyl. Simply enlarge the patterns below, cut them out and, for the elephant and mouse woggles, put them together.

## Stamp Collector Woggle

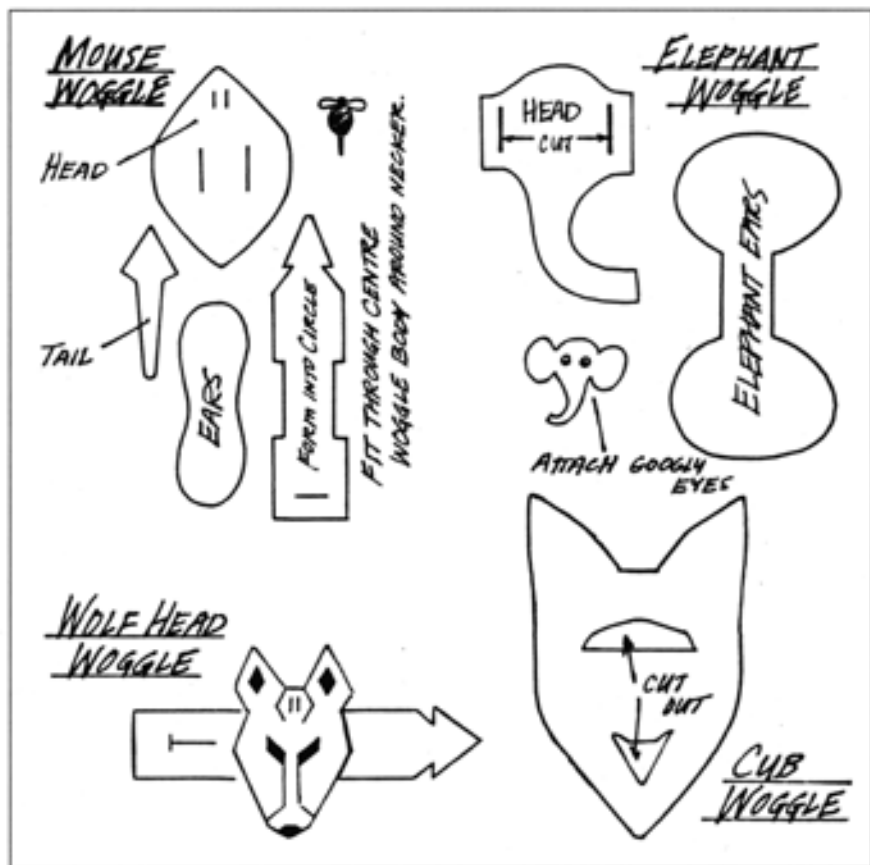
Cubs, Scouts and Venturers might like to try this woggle, from Murray Fried of Kitchener, ON.

Start with a favourite stamp, badge or crest. Glue it to very thin plywood (3 mm) — panelling scraps are excellent. Sand all wood edges smooth,

## DID YOU KNOW...?



- Until 1921 the Scouter's neckerchief was simply knotted at the ends. Then Francis Gidney, Gilwell Park's first camp chief, developed the woggle idea.
- In 1943 the two-stranded turk's head woggle was first awarded to recognize Scouters who had completed their Woodbadge 1 course.
- The leather turk's head woggle began at Woodbadge courses in one of the demonstrations which used a leather thong. The thong was just long enough to make an interesting woggle — which provides a convenient means of carrying the leather thong.





then paint it in a colour that complements the stamp.

Attach the stamp with modelling cement or white glue. When dry, spray the woggle with clear urethane to protect it from dirt. (Don't use varnish or shellac as both turn yellow with age.) Cut a film canister in half and hot glue it to the back for your necker. Now you're ready to show the Scouting world your most prized stamps!

#### West Coast Christmas Woggles

Bruce Pilcher of Courtenay, BC, makes Christmas woggles out of pine cones glued to a small necker loop.

"Experiment with different designs," he suggests. Several of his include:

- a paper chain necker with multi-coloured paper. (The neckerchief threads through the end loops.)
- varnished Christmas cookie glued to a loop. Many people varnish bread pieces, then glue them onto fridge magnets. Do the same for a woggle. The varnish will harden and seal the Christmas cut-out cookie.
- carve a figure from balsa wood.

#### O Canada

For your Flag Day program (February 15) cut out shapes of Canada from vinyl. Make two parallel, horizontal slits for a necker and you're all set for some celebrating.

Draw Canadian Flags or the Canadian Coat of Arms, and mount them to the loops.

Does your family have an official crest? Make a family crest woggle.

#### I'm a Nutty Beaver!

Kitchener Beaver leader Bob Thorn described a Beaver design, suggested by Larry Kester. It uses a large walnut shell, brown felt and a shower curtain ring.

Crack the walnuts in half and remove the food inside. Hot glue a 2 cm plastic shower curtain ring inside the walnut shell *lengthwise* — the other way for Cubs. Once the glue has dried, paint the shell brown. Now spray clear urethane onto the nut to give it a shine and protect the paint.

Glue a little brown tail to the bottom of the shell and tiny googly eyes to the other end. ^

#### Program Links

Cubs: Collector's Badge, Handicraft Badge, Tawny Star  
Scouts: Handicraft Badge



Wolf cub and elephant woggles make great crafts anytime!

Photo: Allen Macarthy

# Leadership 101

## Into the 21st Century

by Richard Worzel

### It was hard to watch.

Our Scouts were giving a novice leader a challenging time as she explained a new game. Standing next to our most seasoned leader, Kevin, I commented that she was experiencing some difficulties.

Kevin thought for a moment, then cocked an eyebrow at me and replied, "Yup. She's doing about as well as you did this time last year."

I had forgotten. Leadership takes time to develop; it's a learned skill.

### Surprising Leaders

Several years ago in Cubs, a new child joined the pack. He was very immature, had a perpetual runny nose, a penchant for goofing around when he should have been paying attention, and funny mannerisms that invited ridicule. Some leaders wondered how he would fare.

Fast forward now five years to a warm June evening when four Scouts were receiving their Chief Scout Awards. Three of these teens were in their third year, ready to move up to our Venturer company. The fourth was a second year Scout who had earned almost every badge, including most of the Achievement Awards (gold level). This youth had risen to patrol leader in his second year, and had received a special award for community service. With new Scouts, leaders often pointed to him as an example what was possible with a lot of hard work. This year he's an assistant activity leader.

Guess what? It's the same boy who made us wonder how he would cope in Cubs. Again, leadership is learned. It takes time and great effort to master.

This young man didn't seem to have an ounce of leadership potential or charisma. Everything he accomplished came through hard work. He listened and worked and became both a great leader and a fine peer model.



Photo: Paul Elich

*When identifying potential youth leaders, look for those who enjoy working with others. What Cubs or Scouts do younger ones turn to for help?*

Good leaders inspire others to find the best in them, then harness and focus it so they can achieve great results. If you can do this, your Cubs, Scouts or Venturers will be hooked — hooked on Scouting, hooked on achievement and high on life's possibilities.

Achievement coupled with a code of ethics and honour is the greatest addiction; it helps people see themselves as successful and as good and capable. It builds self-esteem in a world that seems all too anxious to tear it down.

### How Tos

How do you practice positive leadership to benefit those you work with? There's no magic formula. It's an art, not a science. But as with all arts, there are learnable techniques. Here are some our troop has found useful.

**1. Accept the mantle of leadership.** Leaders *act* like leaders. They act (or pretend) the part until no more acting is necessary. They've just grown into it.

**2. Leading people doesn't mean doing everything.** A good leader coordinates and delegates. She doesn't try to do everything herself — even when she knows that she could do it better than anyone else. One saying goes like this: "The fact that God can do *anything* doesn't mean He will do *everything*." Don't you do everything either. It'll just show you're too lazy to train others; it might even suggest that you don't trust others. When you encourage people to take responsibility, you're starting their leadership training.

**3. Use resources wisely.** A leader should identify what each person does best, gets him or her doing it (so confidence levels rise), then gets novice leaders to teach their skills to others. Try this simple method. Your Scouts and leaders may surprise you!

**4. A leader is confident, not arrogant.** Growing as a leader brings

greater confidence and new challenges. Growth and confidence also imply a willingness to admit to making mistakes. People will be much happier following when they see you readily admit mistakes and not stubbornly insist that you're right, even when the evidence points the other way. Arrogant people turn people off, they don't inspire them.

5. **Listen, consider, consult, then decide.** There's a time to gather information, a time to listen carefully to others, and a time to think. Eventually too much thinking and consulting degenerates into waffling. When the time comes, make a decision — right or wrong. You'll often make mistakes, but he who does not decide is always wrong.
6. **Lead by example, not by decree.** A leader who is unwilling to get dirty hands or learn something new (making the necessary mistakes along the way), is not really a leader. Let's all remember this popular truth: "What you are doing speaks so loudly that I can't hear what you are saying."
7. **Encourage others to lead.** A leader's first job is to lead, then to create new leaders.

#### Stumbles, but Steady Progress

At the 58th Toronto Group, one Venturer is working as an assistant Beaver leader, two others are assistant Cub leaders, and a Scout is fulfilling the role of Kim in our Cub pack. Our newest assistant Venturer advisor, an eighteen-year-old, was active on the company's executive last year.

We haven't achieved great success in all our endeavours, but all these young people *have* stepped up to the challenge and *none* have backed off. The experience has helped all of them grow more mature. It has greatly strengthened our group.

#### Healthy Leadership Styles

Everyone's leadership style differs slightly. Here are some general guidelines to consider.

1. **Tell people what's expected. Be clear about it.** People like to know where they stand. Conversely they dislike uncertainty and dithering. When you want your Cubs or

Scouts to do something, tell them clearly and in sufficient detail, and be firm about it. Then follow up to make sure it's done, looking for opportunities to *publicly praise* success. Offer advice when needed. Criticize, if necessary, but *only privately* and to improve performance.

2. **Tell the truth.** Sometimes this is harder than it sounds. It means being frank (though diplomatic) when people let you down or fall short of what they should achieve. It means cutting through the polite fictitious phrases we all use, and when a situation warrants it, not permitting people to hide behind excuses. It even might mean "stepping on toes" when necessary. People may not like to hear some of

the things you say (parents as well as youth), but if you tell the truth, people will know that they can rely on you; they'll know the value of your word.

3. **Be fair.** Playing favourites, cheating for your own comfort or convenience, shading the truth, cutting

## Outstanding leaders learn through trial and error.

corners, always coming down hard on a Scout whose mannerisms irritate you: all these undermine your authority, both with the youth and other leaders. They cause people to lose respect for you. Do your duty. Do what you *know* is right and don't pander to your preferences.

4. **Inspire people.** Leadership has more to do with inspiring people than anything else. In particular, inspire those around you to believe in their own abilities. Help them understand that those abilities are probably much greater than they themselves believe.

#### What a Difference!

Good leadership can make dramatic improvements to your program. Our Beaver colony collapsed several years ago. Two inexperienced parents led the colony, and we hadn't given them enough guidance and support. Gradually the Beavers became dissatisfied and stopped coming. Finally the two leaders threw in the towel just before Christmas; we were in deep trouble.

My wife (who had been an assistant Beaver leader six years earlier when our son was a Beaver) volunteered to lead the group. Taking on the whole responsibility herself, she recruited our teenage son to help her as an assistant leader. As for parents, she only asked for enough support at each meeting to ensure proper safety and control. She sought advice and pro-



*Look for ways to encourage others to grow in unexpected ways. Everyone wants to experience more adventure!*



gram ideas from more experienced Scouters in our group. Then, the personal touch: she called every Beaver and asked him or her to try the program one more time.

She was firm; the Beavers always knew where they stood. She found out what they liked doing, tailored activities to these preferences, and emphasized the uniform, the Law and the Promise. Gradually, she won them over by showing them that, working together, they could have a lot of fun.

Within several months she recruited some parents who showed interest as full-fledged Beaver leaders. "I'll handle everything you don't want to," she promised. As these parents got 'hooked' on the program she backed off, letting them do more and more, as they grew into their roles.

Today, the colony is large and very healthy. The Beavers hate missing meetings or any other event — even church parade. They'll drag their parents back from skiing weekends or family events if there's a Beaver event in the works. We now have five uniformed leaders, all of whom are learning to become more enthusiastic and capable leaders. But it all happened because one person said, "I'll do it all. Just help when you can." She led from the front by showing what worked, by being willing to do it herself, and by working hard to make it a success.



Photo: Paul Ritch

*Good leaders look for ways to turn the 'work' into play.*

#### **A Clearer Future Vision**

The world has always prized excellent leadership skills. The future will only increase its worth. With rocketing technology and the communications revolution, in the years ahead a single person will be able to influence a much higher proportion of people than in past decades. Such a world will need both outstanding leaders and selfless leaders committed to bettering humanity. Scouting is one of the few youth movements

that teach these positive skills. This reality increases our responsibility and potential for beneficial impact.

Each week as you work with youth, remember this: your positive leadership can, and will, change the future.

Lead on! ^

— Richard Worzel leads the 58th Toronto Troop. He's a professional futurist and author of *Facing the Future: The Seven Forces Shaping Your Future*.

*Share your life with others. It will build respect and trust.*



Photo: Scouts Canada

# A Time To Say Thanks

by John Rietveld

**S**couts Canada conducts a corporate campaign every year to solicit financial support from Canadian companies. The National Council's portion of your membership fee would be higher without this help.

Each fall, Scouting recognizes our corporate donors in the annual report for their generous support at the national level. In addition, these companies receive a letter of appreciation and, of course, a charitable tax receipt.

## Raise the Visibility!

This past spring D'Arcy Delamere, a member of Scouts Canada's Revenue Development Committee and volunteer coordinator for the corporate campaign, recommended an improved, much more visible form of recognition for corporate donors.

Companies contributing between \$500 and \$1,000 are now designated as Bronze Level Pioneer Scout Donors; they receive a certificate and a listing in the annual report. Companies contributing over \$1,000, and up to \$5,000, are designated as Silver Level Voyager Scout Donors; as well as the certificate and annual report listing, they receive recognition each December in **the Leader**. Those companies contributing over \$5,000 are designated as Gold Level Pathfinder Scout Donors; in addition to the annual report and **Leader** listing, we invite them to the National Council annual dinner to receive their certificates.

The purposes of this new donor recognition program are to provide a formal and visible acknowledgement of corporate support, and to stimulate increased, long-term giving by these companies.

In 1996 a total of 182 companies (5% of those approached) contributed as corporate donors and sponsors of Scouting programs, such as Scoutrees



Photo: Paul Ritch

*Corporate sponsors are like good friends: you can always depend on them.*

for Canada. The following list represents the first time our corporate donors and sponsors have been acknowledged beyond the annual report listing.

### Gold Pathfinder Scout Donors

*(donations of \$5,000 or more in 1995-96)*

The Bank of Montreal  
The Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce  
Chrysler Canada Ltd.  
The Eaton Foundation  
General Motors of Canada Ltd.  
Janes Family Foods Ltd.  
Nelson Arthur Hyland Foundation  
Newcourt Credit Group Inc.  
Northern Telecom Ltd.  
Safety-Kleen Canada Ltd.  
Scott Paper  
St. Joseph Printing Ltd.  
Unilever Canada Ltd.

### Silver Voyager Scout Donors

*(donations of over \$1,000 and up to \$5,000 in 1995-96)*

Air Canada  
The Bank of Nova Scotia

Bell Canada  
The E.W. Bickle Foundation  
Cambridge Shopping Centres Ltd.  
Canadian Pacific  
Charitable Foundation  
The Co-Operators Group Ltd.  
Hollinger Inc.  
Imasco Ltd. (Shopper's Drug Mart)  
Imperial Oil Charitable Foundation  
The Investors Group  
The Leonard Foundation  
James Richardson and Sons Ltd.  
The Toronto Dominion Bank  
Petro-Canada  
Power Corporation of Canada  
RBC Dominion Securities Inc.  
The Royal Bank of Canada  
Charitable Foundation  
Teknion Furniture Systems  
TransCanada Pipelines Ltd.

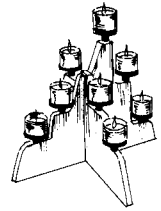
### Let's Support Them!

In *Scouting for Boys*, Baden-Powell told us to always thank those who support Scouting and to leave nothing but our footprints when we have used a campsite. To our 1996 corporate donors and sponsors, we say "thanks." The list above represents our footprints.

Let's all take notice and support our supporters! ^

# Kindle the Excitement

by Donald L. Judd



**I**t's rained all day on your weekend camp. As night falls, a worried youth asks about the planned campfire. Everyone has been working hard on skits, songs and cheers and will be disappointed if it's cancelled. What should you do?

Campfires are an important part of Scouting's tradition. Young people and adults love them. But the heart of any campfire is the *fire*. Flickering flames help focus the fun and kindle lasting memories.

Before cold or wet weather threatens to put out your campfire plans, build an indoor fire like the one described below. It's portable, easy to make and safe to use. Why not get your Scouts or Cubs to make several for a local Beaver colony? Then, plan a joint campfire with everyone contributing something.

## Materials/Tools Needed

You'll need sandpaper, a pencil, a hammer, a knife, wire cutters, a measuring stick, 9 popsicle sticks, 9 paper clips, drill bits (same sizes as nails and coat hanger), a soldering iron and solder, as well as the items listed below.

- plywood (46 cm x 60 cm x 19 mm)
- 9 small glass jars (e.g. baby food)
- 9 jar lids (*must fit the jar bottoms*)
- 9 wooden dowels (19 mm diameter and 2.5 cm long)
- 9 nails (8 cm long)
- candle wick or meat string (68 cm long)
- paint (flat black and dark brown)
- wax (paraffin) blocks
- 1 can to melt wax
- epoxy (kit of two parts)
- wire coat hanger
- 1 extra lid (to fit over jar tops)
- 1 dowel (21 cm long x 19 mm diameter)
- sabre saw with a fine blade
- electric drill
- countersink

## Construction Details

Mark the plywood in 2.5 cm squares and transfer the drawing outline. (See

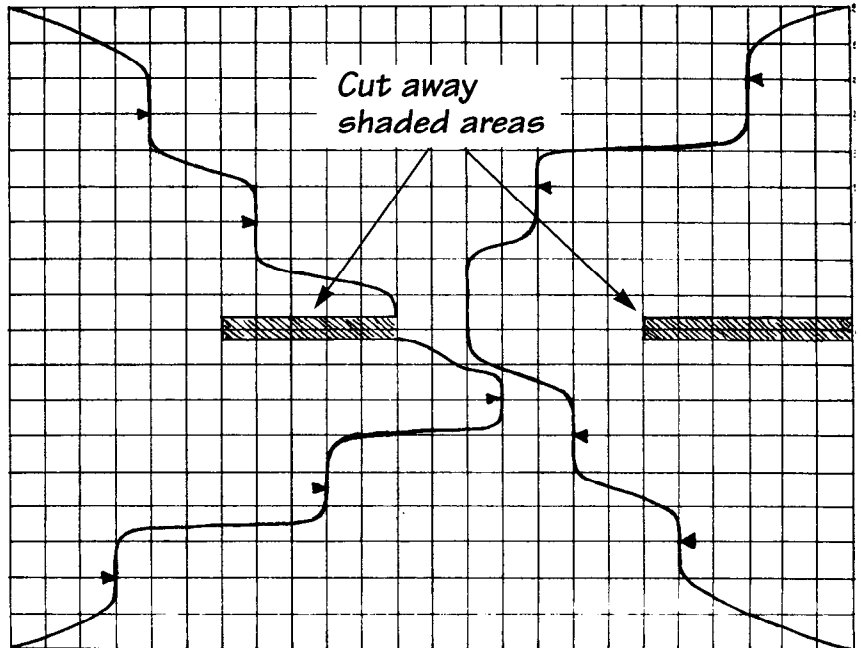


diagram) The triangles indicate candle holder locations; be sure to mark them clearly on the wood.

Use a sabre saw to cut out the platform, including the sections that fit together. Only cut out the wood needed to accommodate the thickness of the plywood. The wood should have a loose friction fit.

Assemble the two sections, using a centre punch (or nail) to mark the candle locations. Drill about 3 cm into the plywood at these points. Slightly round the edges of the plywood with sandpaper, then brush on paint. Make sure the two pieces still assemble easily after painting; sand the inside of the slots if necessary to get a nice fit.

Now make the flame holders. Cut the 19 mm dowel into 2.5 cm lengths. Sand the edges smooth and drill a hole in the precise centre of the dowels; countersink the hole at one end.

Punch a tiny hole through the centre of the lid. Turn the lid over and drive a 8 cm nail through it and into the countersunk end of one of the dowel pieces. Give the head of the nail a good hit to sink it into the depression provided by the countersink.

Next, measure out equal amounts from the epoxy tubes, mix well, and glue the lid, nail and dowel together. If you use five minute epoxy, mix only enough for one or two flame holders at a time. When the epoxy has cured,

cut the sharp end off the nails (leaving at least 3 cm) and spray paint the entire assembly flat black.

## Candle-making

Now make the candles by gently heating the paraffin wax in a pot of water. Be careful! **DO NOT** heat over an open flame. While the wax is melting, prepare the wicks using either string or candle wick. A paper clip weights one end of the string and keeps it on the bottom of each jar; the other end is tied or taped to a popsicle stick which is then placed across the top of each jar. Try to keep the string as close to the centre of the jar as possible. When the wax is melted, fill the jars leaving at least 1 cm clear at the top.

A flame snuffer makes a good addition to your campfire. Use the spare lid to make it. Scrape paint off the lid and solder a straight piece of coat hanger to it. Make a wooden handle by drilling a 5 cm hole into an end of a long piece of dowel. Gently hit the end of the dowel with a hammer to flatten it; this will provide a snugger fit in the handle.

## Program Links

- Cubs: Carpentry Badge
- Scouts: Builder's Badge

— Donald Judd is a former Scout leader. He's very active with the B.-P. Guild in the National Capital Region.





## NATIONAL POSTER COMPETITION!

What do you love about Canada?

Draw a picture that expresses your warmest thoughts and most vivid emotions. Then submit it to the Department of Canadian Heritage's national poster contest. You could win a trip to Ottawa next July 1st to celebrate Canada's 130th birthday with the Prime Minister and Governor General on Parliament Hill!

Make your poster as colourful, fun and imaginative as possible. It shouldn't have writing on it, though braille art is acceptable.

Use any art supplies except photographs, three-dimensional material and computer artwork. Posters should be 38 cm x 50 cm (about 15" x 20").

Want more information?

Call the Department of Canadian Heritage at (819) 953-4735 for further details, *but hurry!* Your entry must be mailed by *February 28, 1997.*

### Program Links

Cubs: Artist Badge, Winter Activity Artwork Badge, Canadian Heritage Badge, Aboriginal Awareness Badge, Tawny Star, World Cubbing Badge.

Scouts: Heritage Badge, Artist Badge.

Venturers: Social/Cultural Activity Award, Personal Interest Activity Award.

## WHIPPING ROPE TIP

If you find you've run out of waxed twine just before you're going to demonstrate whipping rope, reach for the dental floss.

"It's unbelievably strong," says Scout Nathan Gray. "Not only does it work just as well as waxed twine, but it's inexpensive and comes packaged in a convenient holder."

— *Nathan Gray, Sunnybrook, AB.*

## Christmas Ribbon Holders

Last year Cubs from the 5th Deer Lake pack in Newfoundland made ribbon holders from long cardboard tubes. It took several evenings to cut out the front and back panels from wood, paint them with a charming face, then hot-glue the wood to the tube.

Use your imagination when deciding on a ribbon holder figure. Yours could be a reindeer, rabbit, moose, lamb, zebra — even a giraffe! Try out different materials for tails, including cotton balls, pipe cleaners or wool.

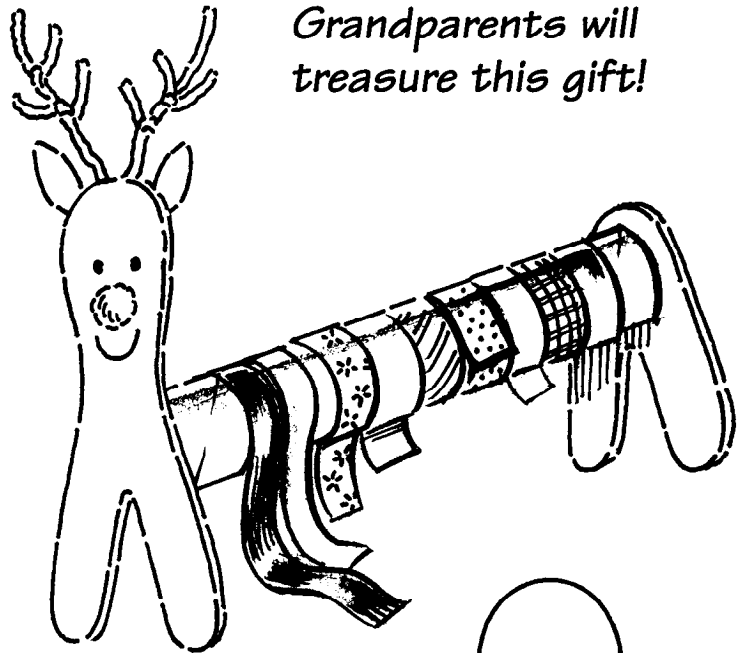
Finish your craft by wrapping various colours of festive ribbon around the tube. Paper clips will keep the ribbon from unravelling.

Beavers too could make this craft using cardboard for the figure, rather than wood. ^

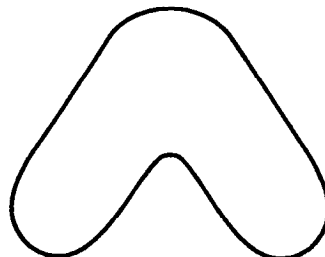
### Program Links

Cubs: Carpentry Badge

— *Thanks to Gary and Steven Cramm, Deer Lake, NF.*

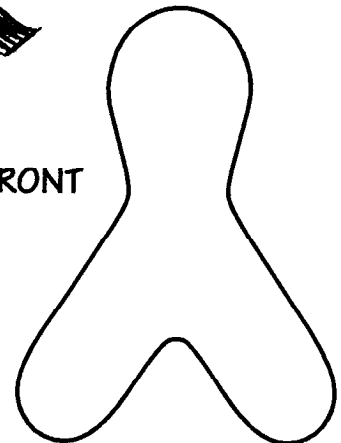


*Grandparents will treasure this gift!*



BACK

FRONT



# Don't Be A Cool Dude!

## *Sleeping Bag A-B-Cs*

by Ross Francis

**A** good sleeping bag. That's one of the first things a Cub, Scout or leader will need soon after joining Scouting.

Understanding what a sleeping bag can do will help when you go looking for a new one. A sleeping bag will not *make* you warm. It simply provides insulation that captures the heat generated by your body. That's important to know.

### The Right Questions

But what do you *want* from your sleeping bag? When and where will you be using it? How often? What temperatures will you likely encounter? How far will you be carrying it?

Learning the answers to these questions will help you choose an appropriate sleeping bag. Your local Scout Shop manager should prove an invaluable source of expertise. Larger shops carry an excellent selection of supplies and camping equipment; smaller shops have full access to all our camping supplies through the Scouts Canada catalogue. (The *Hints* column, p.35, has more sleeping bag ideas.)

When you arrive at your Scout Shop, look for a tag that indicates the temperature rating of the bag. Use this as a *general guide only*. Each manufacturer sets its own rating criteria; this rating is *not* an industry standard. The rating guide is also helpful when comparing two sleeping bags made by the same manufacturer.

### Shapes and Sizes

For many youth and adults, buying an *inexpensive*, but good, rectangular bag is an excellent way to launch a camping career. If you've never camped before, another alternative to buying might involve borrowing or renting a bag.

Rectangular bags are the most common shape. Their simple design makes them the least expensive to produce. Because they provide lots of room for tossing and turning, the extra roominess translates into less heat retention and less insulating efficiency.

For a late fall or winter trip, you can combine two summer sleeping bags into one to give you the insulation your body will need. Remember to put one zippered bag inside the other with zippers on opposite sides. This will reduce drafts. Because most rectangular bags do not have a hood, wear a good hat and sweater to bed on cold nights. Also,

try closing off the top of the bag as much as possible to keep the heat in.

Mummy bags are also very common. They are narrow at the feet, wider at the shoulders, and taper into a hood. Most hoods include a draw string to snug the hood in close, leaving just your mouth and nose exposed. This will keep moisture from your breath out of the sleeping bag.

Because mummy bags fit close to your body, they're very efficient at retaining heat. They're also generally lightweight, compressible, and very good for backpacking and winter camping.

Looking for a compromise?

A modified mummy, or barrel-shaped bag is also available at some stores. It provides good heat retention, while still allowing some room for movement.

### Shells

The shell, or outer layer, of your sleeping bag must be tough enough to resist tears and rips. It should also be able to repel a bit of outside water and 'breathe'.

Good quality bags will have rip-stop nylon shells — easily recognizable by all the little squares in the fabric. Better yet is a windproof, waterproof, breathable fabric (such as Gore-Tex). Some bags may have nylon taffeta; this isn't as strong as the rip-stop and does not resist wind or rain as well. It is, however, often used as the lining for sleeping bags because it feels soft and comfortable against skin.

### Zippers

Look for synthetic (preferably nylon coil) zippers rather than large, metal tooth ones. Metal zippers sometimes freeze in winter and allow more drafts through your bag. They'll also transfer cold from the outside more readily than nylon zippers.

### Insulation materials

Let's look at the six most common insulation materials found in sleeping bags. Even when wet, the following synthetics retain most of their loft (thickness) and, therefore, ability to keep you warm.



Photo: Neil Miller

*A comfortable sleep will make any outdoor adventure more fun.*

**Quallofil™:** Quallofil consists of short, non-continuous, synthetic fibres, each smaller than a human hair. Fibres contain four microscopic tubes that trap air and provide more loft.

**Hollofil™:** These fibres (also synthetic and hollow) are about five cm long and must be sewn onto a backing material to prevent them from bunching up. Because Hollofil allows more air per ounce than Quallofil, it provides better insulation. But the backing material makes Hollofil heavier and bulkier than most other synthetics.

**Polarguard™:** Continuous-filament, synthetic fibres, interwoven into sheets or batts. These fibres won't shift or settle when used in sleeping bags.

**Thinsulate/Lite Loft™:** This material is exactly what it says: thin insulation. It uses synthetic microfibrils many times smaller than other synthetics, resulting in more trapped air and better insulation in less space. The manufacturer claims that a given thickness of Thinsulate is almost twice as effective as the same amount of Polarguard or Hollofil.

**Primaloft™:** Sometimes referred to as "synthetic down", this material resembles down. Tests have shown Primaloft to be better than down for heat retention. It's also better than other synthetics and down in its ability to resist moisture absorption. Primaloft is extremely lightweight and compressible.

**Down:** Down is the only natural insulating fibre suitable for sleeping bags. It is lightweight, very compressible and long-lasting. Down loses most of its insulating value when it becomes wet. It also takes a long time to dry out. People suffering from hay fever and feather allergies should avoid down-filled bags.

#### Construction

Insulation materials are only effective when contained within a bag. It must not be able to shift, settle or bunch up, causing hollow (cold) spots.

Some bags have a "sewn through" construction method with the inner and outer linings sewn together; the insulation lies between. Because this causes cold spots along the seams where insulation is compressed, it's the least desirable construction method. Cheaper, summer-weight bags often use it.

The "double offset quilted" method is more effective; each seam is protect-

ed by an offset layer of insulation. The "overlapping V tube" is similar; seams are covered by an overlapping layer of insulation.

When checking a bag's construction, look at the stitching. Good sleeping bags will have 3-5 stitches per centimetre. You shouldn't be able to lift the thread with your fingers.

- A draft collar that can be drawn close around your neck and shoulders will keep heat from escaping.
- An enlarged foot area (commonly referred to as a "boxed foot") will allow more foot room.
- Good quality bags will be differentially cut. This means the inner liner is cut smaller than the outer

## *Don't take sleeping bags for granted. Good memories depend on warm, comfortable sleep.*

#### Great Features

Look for these features in a good sleeping bag. Most high quality bags will include them.

- All zippers should be able to move in two directions. This allows you to open the bottom of the bag for ventilation.
- Get a bag with a small zippered pocket. Put a pair of ear plugs inside — you can find snoring tent mates whatever the camper's age.
- An insulated draft tube or zipper baffle sewn along the full length of the zipper will keep out drafts.
- A compression bag is better than a stuff sack.
- Look for a velcro tab at the top of the zipper. It will help keep the zipper from opening as you shift around.

shell, which helps keep the liner and the shell from pushing against each other.

- A bag offering a choice of right or left hand zippers lets you join two compatible bags together.

#### Don't Overlook Details

The comfort and quality of your outdoor trip depends on many factors. Don't take sleeping bags for granted. Find out all you can about them, then get the best one possible.

Good memories depend on warm, comfortable sleep. ^

— Ross Francis is the new Director of Programs (Beavers and Cubs) at the National Office. He comes from New Brunswick.



*Whether camping in the summer or winter, don't take your sleeping bag for granted.*

# Fun at the Pond

by Lena Wong



**S**urprise! It's almost time to celebrate winter holidays. Just to get into the holiday mood, here are a couple of Beaver songs to raise your voices over — perfect for dark, cold winter nights.



**I'm a Palm Tree**  
(tune: *Darling Clementine*)

I'm a palm tree, I'm a palm tree  
I'm a palm tree through and through.  
I would rather be a palm tree  
Than a coconut like you.

I'm a waterfall, I'm a waterfall  
I'm a waterfall through and through.  
I would rather be a waterfall  
Than a bi-ig drip like you.

I'm a suitcase, I'm a suitcase  
I'm a suitcase through and through.  
I would rather be a suitcase  
Than an o-old bag like you.

I'm a lobster, I'm a lobster  
I'm a lobster through and through.  
I would rather be a lobster  
Than an o-old crab like you.

## **Around the Beaver Pond**

This song comes from Scouts Canada's *Beaver Song Book*. Sing it to the tune of "Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush."

Here we go round the Beaver pond,  
The Beaver pond, the Beaver pond.  
Here we go round the Beaver pond,  
So early in the morning.  
(*Swim around in circles*)

This is the way we slap our tails,  
Slap our tails, slap our tails.  
This is the way we slap our tails,  
So early in the morning.  
(*Tail slap*)

This is the way we gnaw down trees,  
Gnaw down trees, gnaw down trees.  
This is the way we gnaw down trees,  
So early in the morning.  
(*Gnawing position, make gnawing motions with the mouth*)

This is the way we pack the mud,  
Pack the mud, pack the mud.  
This is the way we pack the mud,  
So early in the morning.  
(*Pretend to pat mud on the lodge*)

## **HOLIDAY CRAFTS**

Every Beaver wants to make crafts galore in December. Here are a few yours will enjoy.

### *Seasonal wall hanging*

Each Beaver needs the following craft items: a piece of red felt (approximately 28 cm x 40 cm); a thin dowel (35 cm long); two round pieces of white felt (one slightly smaller than the other); a small, narrow piece of green felt; a small piece of black felt; glue; and a length of thick yarn or ribbon (about 48 cm long).

Place the dowel at the top of the red felt, turn the top of the fabric over the dowel and glue into place. Use the white felt pieces to form a snowman; glue into place. The green piece becomes his scarf. Cut the black felt piece into a little stovepipe hat, then glue on. Use markers to draw facial features and buttons. Tie the yarn or ribbon to each end of the dowel for hanging.

The snowman is a general winter subject which can be used by all Beavers. If you wish, you can customize your wall hangings for any particular holiday being celebrated by your colony or by individual Beavers.



### *Wrapping paper*

This paper is ideal for wrapping small gifts. You'll need a sheet of paper towel, and 4 paper cups with different food colouring hues; mix colouring at 5 drops to 125 mL water. Fold the paper towel several times until it is the size



of a playing card. Dip each corner of the folded towel into a different colour and let it soak up a small amount. It doesn't matter if colours overlap a little. Carefully squeeze out excess water, unfold the towel and leave to dry on a clean paper towel. Let each Beaver create as much wrapping paper as wanted.

### Bookmarkers

These will make small, easy-to-make presents for the Beavers' friends and family members. Cut rectangles (approximately 5 cm x 17 cm). Use a punch to make a hole at the top of the card. Beavers should decorate their bookmarkers with original art work, greeting card cutouts, stickers or small photos of themselves. Tie five or six strands of colourful yarn through the hole at the top. If they wish, Beavers may write a personalized greeting on the back of the marker.

### Rudolph Snacks

Make sure none of your Beavers have allergies to nuts before serving this treat. (It comes with the compliments of the Ontario Provincial Beaver Program Development Team.)

For each snack you'll need: a triangular half slice of brown bread with the crust removed; peanut butter; 2 raisins; 1 glazed cherry; 2 pretzel sticks.

Spread each triangle with peanut butter. Use the raisins for eyes, the cherry for a nose and the pretzel sticks for antlers. Serve this treat with fruit punch.

### Get Outside

Cold weather shouldn't deter you from taking your colony outdoors for some nature study and fresh air this month. Make sure your Beavers are dressed properly by letting parents know that you've planned an outdoor activity for a meeting or a special weekend activity. Suggest how Beavers should be dressed, then bring along a few extra mittens, scarves and toques for children who forgot they needed them.

### Stargazing.

Those cold, clear dark winter nights we get in our hemisphere are ideal for looking at stars. This is an activity you can carry out on a meeting night at the end of the evening, so extra dressing time is not required. Prepare your Beavers during the meeting by showing them star charts and pointing out the constellations and individual stars they can expect to see. There are lots of books available in your library with the kind of information you need for this



activity. If possible, get several telescopes so Beavers can get a closer look at the night sky. Can they see craters on the moon? Perhaps you could point out where astronauts have walked on the surface.

### Daytime outings:

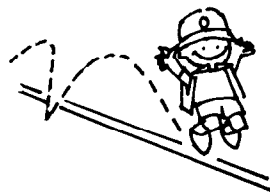
Plan a Saturday morning or afternoon outing to explore your local park or nature area. Look for signs of animals and birds. Try to identify trees and bushes using the shapes of crowns and the bark for identification. Play

some active games of hide and seek or tag. If you have snow, bring along toboggans for some winter fun. Finish your day off with a picnic of hot chocolate and sandwiches, enjoyed around a campfire or in a sheltered sunny spot. Don't forget to sing some songs from the *Beaver Song Book* or the *Campfire Sing-Along* CD or tape (available at Scout Shops).

December offers many opportunities for Beaver fun. Take full advantage of the month, indoors and out. X

## ENERGY BURNERS

Another must for cold, dark winter evenings includes plenty of games and physical activities. These will keep your Beavers busy, happy and healthy. The following fast-action fun comes from the U.K.'s *Scouting* magazine.



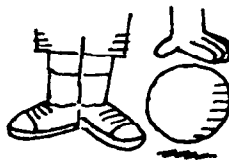
### JOGGING ON THE SPOT

Make a line down the centre of your meeting room by using a length of masking tape on the floor. Beavers must move along the line jumping from one side to the other.



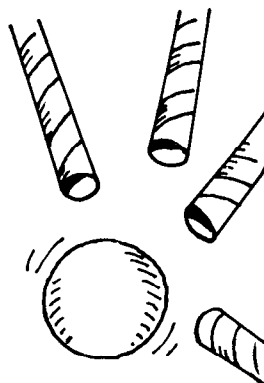
### SHUTTLE RUN

Mark off two parallel lines a few metres apart. Beavers must run forward and backwards between the two lines touching them in turn.



### DRIBBLING

Place some cones (or shoes or boots) in a straight line along the length of the room. Beavers should dribble a soccer-sized ball around the markers from one end to the other.



### GIANT BLOW SOCCER

Divide the colony into two teams; give each Beaver a wide drinking straw. Assign a 'home base' to each team at either end of the room. Your Beavers must get down on their hands and knees and attempt to blow a ping-pong ball into the other team's home base.

If you have a large colony, you could form several pairs of teams. Make sure you have a referee for each on-going game.

Is a ping-pong ball too light? Try using crumpled foil formed into a ball of the same size.



# Book Talk

by Dave Jenkinson



What's your first reaction when you see a bug?

"Oh, now that's gross?" (STOMP! STOMP!) or "Gee, isn't that beautiful?"

Probably your response is rooted in some childhood experience. Helping to reinforce that portion of the Beaver Promise where children pledge "to help take care of the world", is Joanne Oppenheim's book, *Have You Seen Bugs?* While most people would probably say "yes" to the title's question, after exploring this book their conclusion might be that they've been looking, but not really seeing. Oppenheim's poetic text unobtrusively teaches about arthropods (insects, spiders and millipedes) while exploring the incredible variety to be found amongst "bugs." Ron Broda's double page illustrations, consisting of full-colour paper sculptures of bugs, take this book to another level. It's a visual feast which must be shared.

Cubs who are doing their best to achieve the Tawny Star are invited to "type a simple message, letter, story or poem." (A3) To make the letter part of this requirement more "real," Cubs could be introduced to *Free Stuff for Kids* which contains 150 of "the best free and up-to-two-dollar things kids can send for by mail." All of the suppliers cited in the book have promised to honour single requests through December 1997. Many of the items have connections to other Scouting stars, badges or awards. For example, writing for the bat house plans could lead into the Carpenter Badge, while seeking a folder of the braille alphabet provides a link to Blue Star A5.

When the letters related to *Free Stuff for Kids* start to arrive, another possible activity presents itself; most envelopes will come bearing stamps. Time then to turn to Elizabeth MacLeod's *Stamp Collecting for Canadian Kids*, which will give Cubs and Scouts all the basic information they'll need to start their own collections. Lavishly

illustrated with full-colour reproductions of stamps (principally Canadian) in addition to describing the basic equipment necessary to be a philatelist, *Stamp Collecting* explains how to remove stamps from envelopes and suggests ways of organizing and mounting stamps in albums. Even Cubs and Scouts who don't want to become stamp collectors will be intrigued by the book's sections on how a stamp is created, stamp errors (such as the inverted St. Lawrence Seaway stamp), and oddball stamps from around the world. (Cubs & Scouts: Collector Badge)

Neil Francis' *Paper Airplanes and Other Super Flyers* offers instructions plus flying tips for a baker's dozen gliders, twirling wings, and parachutes. It also gives plans for some fascinatingly strange "twirl-o-tubes." Required materials can be scrounged from around most homes, offering another opportunity to recycle. In terms of sophistication, the various flyers would appeal to both Cubs and Scouts. However, provided with patterns, most older Beavers should be able to construct the "Flying Meat Tray" glider from scratch, while younger members of the colony could assemble pre-cut pieces. (Cubs: Tawny Star A5, Handicraft Badge 1, Recycling Badge B1, 3)

Though adults often associate dressing up in costume just with Halloween, children know that any time is right for playing make believe. Part of pretending can involve dressing the part. Mary Wallace's *I Can Make Costumes* presents ideas for nearly a dozen simple costumes which can be created (without sewing) largely from recycled materials. In addition to enhancing Beaver or Cub theme nights/camps, some of the ideas have other applications. For example, the "paper bag vest," after being decorated, could be used to identify members of temporary sixes or dens at camp. (Cubs: Entertainer Badge 2, Recycling Badge B1)

Scouts, plus some older Cubs, might individually enjoy perusing the contents of *The Outdoor Adventure Handbook* and *Kids Outdoors*. Organizationally, the former uses two facing pages for each topic, and every double page section includes numerous coloured, non-sexist and multicultural photographs of children. Whatever the topic, illustrated step-by-step directions are provided. For instance, a boy and girl are shown building a shelter from a sheet of plastic; another pair demonstrates how to build camp gadgets. Though *The Outdoor Adventure Handbook* will serve as a good motivator, *Kids Outdoors* contains much more hiking/camping material, but still of a kid-friendly variety. Illustrated with black and white drawings, *Kids Outdoors* offers a real smorgasbord of practical information and ideas which compliment the *Fieldbook for Canadian Scouting*. Trainers and service team members, be certain to introduce *Kids Outdoors* as a resource to new Scout leaders. (Cubs: Canadian Camper Award; Scouts: B.-P. Woodsman's Badge, Campcraft, Exploring and Winter Scouting, Bronze stage)

## BOOK DETAILS

N. Francis, *Paper Airplanes and Other Super Flyers*, Kids Can Press, 1996: \$5.95.

V. Logue, F. Logue, and M. Carroll, *Kids Outdoors*, Ragged Mountain Press, 1996.

E. MacLeod, *Stamp Collecting for Canadian Kids*, Kids Can Press, 1996: \$6.95.

H. McManners, *The Outdoor Adventure Handbook*, Reed Books, 1996: \$15.99.

J. Oppenheim, *Have You Seen Bugs?*, Illus. by R. Broda, North Winds, 1996: \$16.99.

J. Peers (ed.) *Free Stuff for Kids*, Stoddart, 1996: \$7.99.

M. Wallace, *I Can Make Costumes*, Owl Books, 1996: \$6.95. λ



## Subcamps:

Your "Home Away from Home" *by Bernie Lutes and John Neysmith*

**CJ'97** will be an experience of a lifetime for everyone! While participants will enjoy program activities, learning challenges and making new friends, subcamp (your home area) activities too will bring terrific experiences.

What is a subcamp and what does it offer?

CJ97 will feature 10 subcamps (each with about 1,100 participants) coordinated by members from one of Canada's 10 provinces/territories. Subcamps are like self-contained villages with paths, roads and games areas.

The subcamps (named after major Canadian waterways) are located in open fields and wooded areas to the left of Boulevard Lake. This is close to almost everything, from the water program to the famous gathering place we call "Thunderdome." CJ organizers will assign participants to subcamps on a random basis to ensure each area has a good mix of youth members from many provinces and different countries. What an exciting opportunity to meet new friends, all within 30 metres of your own tent!

Each subcamp will have a headquarters tent. Special personnel (20-30 on site 24 hours a day) will help sort out your problems or concerns (e.g. administration, quartermaster, personal communication). Get to know your subcamp personnel. They want to serve you.

### View from the Inside

We'll be camping right inside Thunder Bay's city limits. While Boulevard Lake and our camping area has a remote, country appearance to it, in reality many homes will surround us. You may be in a subcamp located right behind someone's back yard. Invite your Thunder Bay neighbours to visit. Share a meal.

You might even want to link up with groups from a nearby province or city. Ask them to join you in one of your patrol's subcamp activities. You'll have a great time.

Subcamps will be buzzing with fun activities. One subcamp is planning to carve a totem pole and an Aboriginal war canoe in their subcamp. Everyone in the subcamp will have a chance to help carve and build them. Another subcamp is planning to organize a set of games characteristic of their province many years ago; one will include stilt walking. Sounds like fun!

Camping hygiene and the environment are always important — especially in an urban setting. Your subcamp Service Scouter will show you the sanitation area, water sources, garbage disposal procedures and washing areas. Located inside subcamp areas will be three centrally-positioned "cluster areas." These centres will house the grocery stores, the canteen, the first aid station and shower facilities.

### Thunder Nights

Thunder Nights is one of the main subcamp events. The 10 subcamps are divided into three areas: Eastern Subcamps, Central Subcamps and Western Subcamps. Over a three-night period each of these units will host an evening of regional activities called "Thunder Nights." Here you'll enjoy barbecued

West Coast salmon, PEI Clam Chowder, as well as regional songs and entertainment. Only your imagination will place limits on the events. Don't miss it! Though subcamp teams will co-ordinate Thunder Nights, your participation will guarantee a great time brimming over with fun and memories.

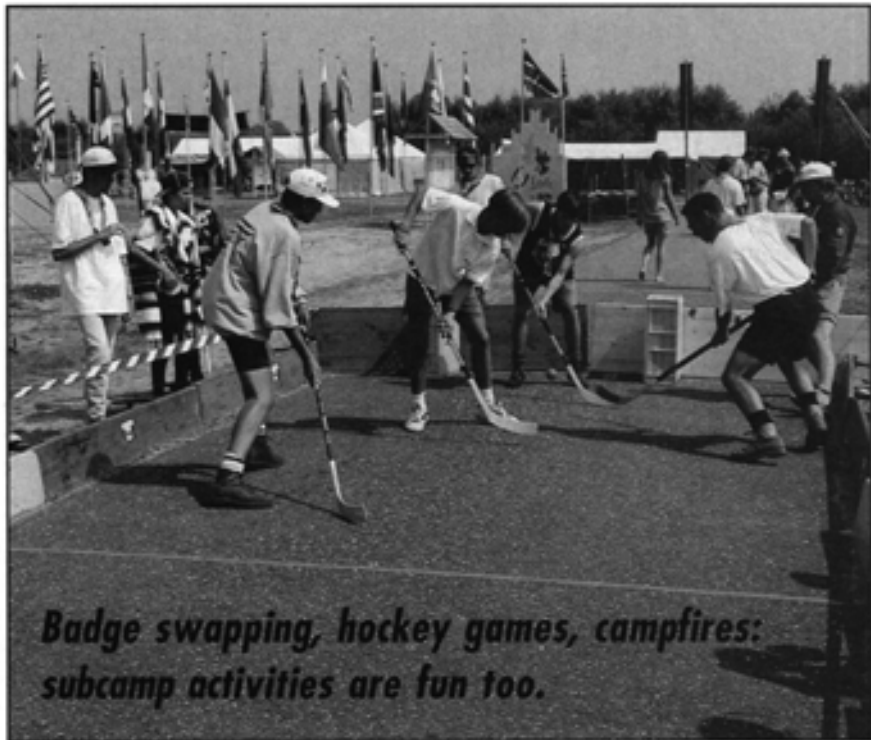
### "Hi! I'm Jake."

Making new friends is part of any jamboree. Subcamps provide an excellent environment for meeting people and kindling new friendships. Invite other Scouts and Venturers over for a meal; ask them to join in some of your subcamp activities or games. Swap stories, trade badges and exchange pins. Encourage youth to get to know as many new people as possible.

For CJ97 update information why not check out Scouts Canada's Website at: [www.scouts.ca](http://www.scouts.ca).

We want you to feel right at home in your subcamp. It'll be your "home away from home." ^

— *Bernie Lutes is the CJ'97 Subcamps Coordinator, while John Neysmith is the Subcamps Deputy Co-ordinator.*



**Badge swapping, hockey games, campfires:  
subcamp activities are fun too.**

Photo: Allen McCarthy

# Public Speaking: *Ten Minutes of Fame*

by Ian Mitchell

Not long ago I sat through a presentation by Venturers that was aimed at educating parents of first year Scouts. The troop was very active in outdoor activities; the demonstration and talk was intended to drive home the need for good equipment so each youth would enjoy the outdoors to the fullest extent possible.

The Venturers were well-prepared. They had examples (both good and bad) of equipment that each Scout would need: boots, backpacks, rain gear, sleeping bags, all the usual stuff. They spoke knowledgeably and threw in fascinating real-life stories to illustrate a point — examples that had happened to them. They kept everyone's interest and attention. These Venturers knew their subject well. By the end of the presentation, they convinced me that my son, Mark, would need to update his camping equipment. How did this happen? How was it that several "kids" were able to teach me — an avid camper — a few things about today's outdoor equipment?

After thinking about it, I decided that those Venturers were very effective speakers.

## Help Me Understand

An EFFECTIVE SPEAKER is one who communicates a message which an audience can understand clearly. The

speaker can keep your attention no matter how long your day has been or how knowledgeable you are about the subject matter. The listeners leave being able to summarize the presentation in only a few words.

Becoming an effective speaker takes training and experience, but it's not an impossible mission. Your Venturers will need direction and guidance on how to speak effectively, as well as lots of practice. Start them down that fulfilling road with these tips.

## Effective Speaking Hints

1. *Research.* After deciding on the topic, find out everything you can about it. Talk to others who know a lot. Look for the latest information; don't rely entirely on information which has been passed on to you.

2. *Organize.* Once your research is finished, identify the important parts. List them separately on cue cards. Organize them from the "most needed" information to the "least needed" information. This will not only help you keep track of important points, but also keep you focused if you're interrupted.

3. *Practise.* An effective presentation is one that has been practised. When working with your Venturers on this, reinforce vocal techniques and eye contact, as well as timing. If you're going to demonstrate something, make sure everyone will be able to see.

4. *First-hand experiences.* Everyone likes to hear about first-hand experiences — things that really happened to you. When you include real-life, personal anecdotes, you virtually guarantee audience interest. Of course, a humorous experience will add greatly to your speech.

5. *Questions.* Be sure to allow time for plenty of questions. Often, you'll need to ask your audience several times. Reassure your Venturers that it's okay to admit that they don't have the answer if they encounter a really tough question. Being able to go away and find an answer, then report back is part of any effective speaker's tool kit.

6. *Handouts.* Handouts, photocopies or brochures ensure that your most important information gets special attention. Make these clear and easy to read.

## Enthusiasm Counts!

No matter what speaking techniques you use or what the topic you discuss, effective speakers always appear enthusiastic and very interested about their subject. Enthusiasm and preparation go hand-in-hand with effective speaking.

The Venturer program allows for unlimited opportunities for youth to enhance their effective speaking skills — something they'll use throughout their lives.

Planning events with those in the community, passing on skills and knowledge to others, leading in the company: these are but a few built-in program opportunities allowing Venturers to enhance their skills.

So, cut 'em loose! In a short while, you'll be surprised how well your Venturers are speaking in front of others. ^

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# Kim to the Rescue!

by Ian Mitchell

**E**very Scout troop with a nearby Cub pack should have a Kim.

What's a Kim?

The term "Kim" comes from a Kipling story about a boy who demonstrated the qualities of unwavering loyalty to his friends, a quickness to learn, and resourcefulness in times of need. In Scouting, a Kim is a Scout who works with the Cub pack leadership team. This person should help plan and carry out fun Cub programs.

A Kim is usually a Scout who has completed at least one year in the Scouting program. He or she may take on a range of meaningful roles within the pack, including:

- being part of the planning team,
- providing a link between the pack and the troop,
- helping with the "Going-Up" ceremony,
- running or demonstrating games.

## Planning and Linking

As a valued member of the pack planning team, a Kim can give helpful input, and suggest ideas that Cubs might enjoy. As your Kim's role expands, she will begin fulfilling requirements for the Arrowhead Badge.

A Kim can help lessen the fear some Cubs experience when moving on to Scouts. Your Kim can also help build anticipation of the Scout program in all senior Cubs. She can keep the troop Scouter informed about Cubbing activities so senior youth can visit the troop before the Going-Up ceremony.

## Running Activities

A Kim can help run many pack activities. Consult Kim especially when concerned about activities that might involve peer pressure. Because Kim is just a little older than Cubs, she can positively influence youth in the pack. How?

The Canadian Parks/Recreation Association provides an example through its "Break Free All-Stars" kit. This program includes a collection of activities aimed at educating youth about smoking's harmful effects. The kit contains age-appropriate activities and thought-provoking facts for youth 6 to 11 years old. (Get your own "Break Free" kit for \$8 by calling 613-748-5651.) Think of the impact on Cubs if your Kim delivered a message describing the harmful affects of smoking on their bodies. The following active game could creatively reinforce the message.

## Triangle All-Star Tag

This game requires no equipment and only 5-7 minutes. Groups of three to five people link hands to form triangles (or pentagons). One Chaser is chosen for each triangle and remains outside the formation. One of the players in each formation is chosen as the Target.

Chasers must try to tag a person chosen as the Target in each triangle. The triangles must move to protect the Targets. The youth move around to try to keep the Target in their group away from the Chaser. If the Target is tagged by the Chaser, they switch.

## Break Free Discussion

After playing the game, talk about these discussion points.

1. Sticking to your decision not to smoke sometimes means finding the right friends to support you. Are those (Chasers) who try to talk you into smoking really your friends?
2. If you're the Target in this game, it's easy to see how friends can either help keep you safe or put you in danger. How can you help protect those friends you care for from smoking?
3. This activity demonstrates the power of peers or friends. What peers say or do about smoking, affects your decisions. It can directly affect your health.

## Everyone Wins

Used creatively, Kim can benefit both Cubs and the volunteering Scouts themselves. What important messages could Kim give your Cubs? Brainstorm with your leadership team. How can you best use Kim's resources while also developing her leadership skills? Having a Kim in your pack can only strengthen the pack-troop link. It might also ease your overall leadership work load.

Look around. Who would make a good Kim in your troop?

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# Is There a Keeo in Your Colony?

by Ross Francis

In *Friends of the Forest*, the book that provides the foundation theme for Scouting's Beaver program, Keeo is a beaver. He's the largest beaver in the pond, silver in colour, and has the gift of speech. Keeo communicates with many residents along the river, and shares information which helps the beavers take care of the world.

In Scouting, Keeo is usually a Cub who wears a silver neckerchief and Keeo badge. Besides working with a colony and serving as a link between the Beaver and Cub sections, Keeo is a member of the colony leadership team.

### Responsibilities

Keeo shares in leadership responsibilities as well, usually by working with White Tail Beavers, preparing them for their swim-up. Perhaps Keeo could arrange for a Cub leader to visit the White Tails at the pond, and then take them for a visit to the Cub pack.

Keeo can also help plan the program. What an excellent resource, especially if he was a Beaver himself. He'll be able to tell leaders exactly what Beaver-aged youth enjoy most. Let your Keeo design and prepare crafts and games, and help supervise and assist the Beavers as they play and learn. Some tasks your Keeo might help with include:

- *explaining* all aspects of the Cub program including the Grand Howl, the Cub salute, the six system, how the

Cub pack meets, the seven program elements, and the jungle theme.

- *helping* Beaver leaders design the program and outings to prepare White Tails for Cubs.
- *participating* in the swimming-up ceremony.

Because Keeo is closer to the Beavers in age, she'll often see things from their perspective — a real benefit! Some Beavers may feel more comfortable discussing problems or concerns with her, rather than adults. That's fine.

Allow time at every meeting for Keeo to explain to senior Beavers about Cubbing. This will encourage them, and ease their transition.

### Selection

When you're picking a Keeo for your colony, consult local Cub leaders and possibly the parents of the Cubs. Explain the roles and responsibilities of the position, as well as where Keeo fits in. Cub leaders know their youth and will be able to help you select the best Cub for your colony.

Look for a child who is warm and friendly, and able to get along with Beaver-aged children. He must be reliable; able to set a good example; able to work and communicate well with others; mature enough to work as a young leader rather than as an older Beaver; able to gain satisfaction through giving as well

as getting; and capable of managing easy activities.

Once you've selected your Keeo, spend time outlining the duties, as well as types of crafts, games and songs used in the program. What else might be helpful? Answer this question, then make sure you support him in the exciting (and scary) role.


Give him a copy of *The Keeo Book*; it will explain Keeo's role and give more ideas and guidelines. It'll also serve as a workbook where Keeo can record things that have worked well or things to change before trying again.

### Better Late Than...

If you don't have a Keeo in your colony, it's not too late to get one. Start by consulting your immediate resources: *The Beaver Leader's Handbook*, *The Keeo Book*, your service Scouters and other Beaver leaders. Then, meet with local Cub leaders to identify the best candidate for your colony. If your sponsor group does not include a Cub pack, consult your Service Scouter to find the nearest pack.


Remember: *Keeo is capable of more than just cleaning up!* When he feels truly part of your leadership team, the benefits will be obvious to all.

With proper selection, training and guidance you'll be amazed at what a Keeo can do for your colony. ^





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# Get the JUMP on these new programs!

We now have four new JUMPSTART activities (Fall, Winter, Spring and Family) providing information-rich programs in four new fascinating themes that give leaders everything they need to get the seasons up and running successfully.

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Check your local Scout Shop for the complete JUMPSTART Program selection!



## Food Drive Kick-Off

Scouting members from Regina, SK, kick off an annual drive each fall to gather food and raise public awareness of those less fortunate. Last year Regina Scouting youth raised over 30 tons of food, plus \$750! Scout Dieter Fandrich, Cub David Fandrich, Beaver Jason McCrindle and Venturer Michael Exner helped sort the food and place it in holiday baskets. Thanks to Jean Thomas. Photo: Courtesy of the Regina Leader-Post.



**"Thank You Mom!"** If your Beavers are looking for a nice thank you gift for someone, Devin O'Reilly of the 3rd South Peace Group, Dawson Creek, BC, has a great idea. Recently his colony made this craft (kits available through Scout Shops for \$1.25). Children must sand the edges of the beaver and plaque. Then they must paint the letters (macaroni), glue the figure on the plaque, glue on the letters and varathane their creation. As a finishing touch, the children were helped to hot-glue the plaque into a groove cut along a poplar branch. Photo: Margaret Keith.



**Set Sail for Adventure** Each year 10 Ontario Sea Scouts from Sarnia's 4th Central United Church Troop set their sails for nearby Lake Huron and high adventure. Picked for their commitment to service, special achievements and attendance, the Scouts enjoy three days of hands-on nautical training. Photo: Steve Raes.



**Venturing Into White Water** Newfoundland's Gander River holds special interest to Venturers in St. Martin's Company of Gander. They love the challenge of honing their canoeing skills in the fast water. It makes for perfect weekend canoe trips. Photo: Jill Ivany



## Swagger On Up to the Feeder

"Let's feed birds this winter." With these words ringing in their heads, Scouts from the 1st Scotchtown Troop in New Waterford, NS, built feeders made from an old dead birch tree. Each youth got a 40 cm long piece of birch, then drilled a series of 2 cm wide holes deep into the wood. Below each hole Scouts drilled smaller holes and inserted dowels in them for a perch. After filling the larger holes with suet and bird seed, the Scouts hung the feeders outside. In no time the neighbourhood was alive with a flood of frenzied feathered fluttering. Photo: Charlie McPhee.



## Santa's Busy Elves

Cubs from the 5th Deer Lake Group, NF, spent several evenings last fall making dog ribbon holders for their moms. These useful gifts help remove Christmas clutter in the weeks leading up to the holiday season. See *Swap Shop* for building instructions. Photo: Gary Cramm. ^

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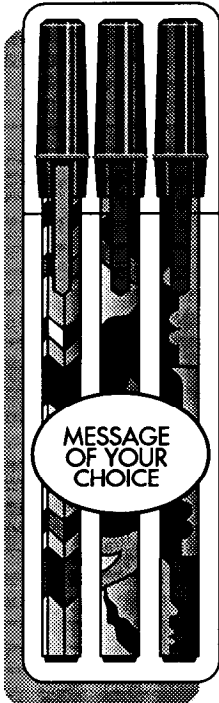


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# Come the Millennium

by Ben Kruser

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It's hard to believe that three years from now we will be standing on the eve of the 21st century. The millennium celebrations will be spectacular and unforgettable, and so should any Scouting activities that commemorate this milestone.

Thinking about a global celebration three years away might sound a bit premature, but generating ideas, planning events and obtaining needed items often takes longer than you think. Here are some ideas you can start considering locally.

- Have your youth name, or identify, all the new inventions or high tech products that have appeared in the last year. Then try the last 5, 10, 25, 50 and 100 years.
- Incorporate ideas about the millennium into a medieval night theme. How did people live 1,000 years ago? What things did they do differently, and what things haven't changed much?
- How will life be different three years from now? One thousand years from now?
- Start planning a time capsule to be opened on January 1, 2000. What should go in it? Ask your Scouting youth.
- At a district/regional level you may want to start planning for special campouts or gatherings to welcome the new millennium with your Scouting youth's families.

**Tell Us**

What Supply Services products or services would you like to see available to commemorate this monumental event? Any special items that appear in the 1999/2000 catalog must be planned and selected by Supply Services *no later than December 1, 1998.*

Your ideas concerning uniform wear items will need to be put on the National Program Forum agenda and receive approval by the National Council no later than November 1998, if they are to be produced and available for the following Scouting year start-up. Special logos and products require time for design and artwork, along with input from respective National Standing Committees. With all the other pressing priorities of the day, special logos can take *up to a year* to develop, depending on how it's handled. We've got just one year to get things rolling, and this time will pass quickly.

**Thinking Caps On**

Put your thinking caps on now! Get your sections to send in ideas for Scouts Canada millennium celebration products. The more input we have (especially concerning uniform wear items) the sooner we'll be able to guide the new product development process on a national scale.

Write to us at Supply Services, P.O. Box 5151, Stn. LCD-Merivale, Ottawa, Ontario, K2C 3G7. Fax: (613) 224-6022. E-mail: [supply@scouts.ca](mailto:supply@scouts.ca) λ

# Cubs Can Help Improve the Environment

by Ross Francis

**Y**oung people love the outdoors. They're concerned about preserving and improving the environment.

Launch your Cub pack on an interesting and environmentally-helpful project. Browse through this shopping list of ideas and pick items that spark your interest. Combine several together. Compete with other packs to make your neighbourhood a nicer place to live.

Review the list highlighting subjects that would appeal to your Cubs. Discuss their interests, and tie them into the program.

## The 3 Rs

These ideas concern reducing, recycling and reusing.

1. Conserve power by turning off lights, television, radio and appliances when you're not using them. How does this help the environment?
2. Batteries for flashlights and toys contain hazardous materials. Instead of throwing them out in your regular garbage, keep them separate in a sealed container for disposal at a hazardous waste depot.
3. Save old toys, books, clothes, uniforms and other items. Give them to a church to pass on to the needy.
4. Did you know that one year's supply of newspaper, once recycled, is almost enough to insulate a house? Start recycling your papers today. Save wrapping paper, string and bag ties, too. They're great for crafts and games.
5. Look for ways to recycle all glass jars, plastic pop bottles, and cans. Sometimes you can get cash for them — a great fundraising opportunity.
6. Find out about local "blue box" recycling programs, and encourage your neighbourhood to participate.
7. When brushing your teeth or washing, turn off the water when you don't actually need it. Report any leaks and drippy taps to your parents. A dripping tap wastes buckets of water over a full day.
8. When you want a drink, instead of letting tap water run until it gets cold, fill a container and keep it in the fridge.
9. With an adult, check to make sure that hot water pipes from your home water heater are insulated. If they aren't, Cubs could wrap insulation around them. *Warning!* These pipes may be very hot. How does it save energy and protect the environment?
10. Make a compost bin or start a compost pile for vegetable peelings, food scraps and leftovers.
11. Make a "garbage free" school lunch by reusing bags and containers.

## Shop Wisely

Consider these ideas when shopping. How can you tie them into your Cub program?

1. Buy things in bulk. Small packages cause waste.
2. Avoid buying fruit and vegetables in plastic packages. Look for loose items or those packaged in paper bags.
3. Buy organic grown foods. These are grown without commercial chemicals. In Canada, certified organic gardens must be free from chemicals for three years.

4. Buy non-bleached paper towels, tissue and toilet paper. Bleach harms the environment.
5. Even though it means more clean-up after a meal, avoid buying disposable products such as plastic utensils, paper plates, and styrofoam cups.

## The Great Outdoors

1. Use existing campsites, trails and campfire pits. If you must use a new site, choose an area that will cause the least impact. Restore it to its original condition before leaving.
2. Practice a "pack in/pack out/no trace" policy when camping, backpacking or canoeing.
3. Adopt an area for regular clean-ups (e.g. your school, church or meeting place yard). Remember to wear a pair of work gloves.
4. Use existing campfire sites, use only dead wood, don't cut or peel bark from living trees, and make sure the fire is completely out before leaving.
5. Discuss how cars affect the environment. Ride your bike or walk rather than asking Mom or Dad for a drive.
6. Wash yourself and your dishes a safe distance from lakes and rivers. Use only biodegradable soaps in the wilderness.

Preserving and improving the environment can be invigorating. Ask your Cubs what they would like to do. A

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# Are You an Optimist?



by Bryon Milliere

A Scout is kind and cheerful, considerate and clean, and wise in the use of his or her resources.

The Scout Law reflects a certain amount of optimism about daily living and making the world a better place. Beavers promise to "Love God and help take care of the world." When you think of Scouting in action, it's easy to picture youth and adults engaged in positive challenges with a smile of satisfaction or a look of determination.

With optimism playing such an important part of the 'game' of Scouting, it's no wonder that Scouting has found a proud partner in Optimist International. If you look at the Optimist Creed (see sidebar), you're sure to notice many connections to the values and beliefs associated with Scouting's spirit.

Optimist International began over 75 years ago in Buffalo, New York. It has grown internationally to over 4,000 clubs involving 160,000 volunteers. Scouts Canada has a similar number

of groups with approximately the same number of youth members. Optimist Club members are called Optimists. These Optimists are civic-minded men and women banded together to serve the community, to encourage personal development and to adopt optimism as a philosophy of life. They find great reward giving their time and energy to better the community.

### Great Partnership

Scouting has been partnered with Optimist Clubs since 1925. There are currently 107 Scouting groups sponsored by Optimist Clubs with the greatest concentration (86 groups) in Ontario.

Many groups have received financial and other forms of support from local Optimist Clubs in addition to direct sponsorship. As a service club it raises money for community needs and projects. Youth are of special interest to Optimist Clubs as they realize that today's youth are tomorrow's leaders. Their motto in fact is "Friend of Youth", and their objective is to "Aid and Encourage Development of Youth."

Scouting is one of 22 youth organizations officially endorsed by Optimist International each year. Other projects include: public speaking contests, bike safety undertakings, Junior Optimists (JOII), Octagon Clubs, special Olympics, drug abuse prevention, youth appreciation week, and special interest clubs for teenagers.

### Tap Into the Source

As a service club, your local Optimist Club is well connected to resources within the community. They are an excellent source for project assistance, promotion, financial support, technical assistance and potential leaders.

Your request for assistance will benefit the Optimist Club by:

- *providing meaningful projects.* Members join to serve the community.
- *solidifying their membership.* Working together in the public eye on a worthwhile project with clear benefits to youth is rewarding and brings members together.
- *creating identity in the community.* Sponsorship of Scouting, and identification with Scouting activities, helps to raise the profile of the Optimist

Club. Be sure to wear the Optimist logo as a partner identification if you are sponsored by an Optimist Club.

- *building membership.* Interaction with the Scouting group may result in adults and future adults taking interest in club membership.
- *fulfilling club objectives.* Working directly with youth, building effective leaders and promoting interest in civic affairs and good citizenship, fulfils their promise to the community by truly serving as a "Friend of Youth."

Get to know members in your local Optimist Club. They want to be your friend. X

## THE OPTIMIST CREED

Looking for a good meeting closing?

Read the following Optimist Creed to your Cubs, Scouts or Venturers. Better yet, spend time discussing its meaning and looking for ways to put it into practice in your life.

*Promise Yourself:*

- To be strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.
- To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.
- To think only of the best, to work only for the best and to expect only the best.
- To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.
- To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.
- To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile.
- To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.
- To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.
- To take health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet.
- To make all your friends feel that there is something in them.

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1989	April; May; November; December
1990	February; November
1991	January; February; Aug/Sept; November
1993	April; Aug/Sept
1994	May; Aug/Sept



# Don't be Nervous... Be Prepared by Rob Stewart

## Public speaking.

Do these words make beads of sweat break out all over your body? Well, you're in good company; speaking in front of others makes almost everyone tense.

Before making a presentation or conducting a training session it's good to learn some methods for combating nervousness. For starters — we've all heard it — nervousness isn't a "bad thing." It can actually help you focus on the task. But when the jitters impede your ability to deliver a quality session, step back and take another look at the situation.

### The Secret Is...

Most good trainers and speakers will tell you that the secret to any public presentation is... *be prepared*. Nothing else will increase your self-confidence as much as preparation. In fact, your comfort level will rise proportionately to the amount of knowledge you have about the topic.

Here are some helpful hints for harnessing those nervous butterflies.

### Know your Topic

Gather all the information you can about your training topic. Talk to others who have conducted similar sessions; ask them for advice and ideas. Read all the material available and make sure your information is current.

Don't volunteer to train a session which requires more study and preparation than you can give. Sometimes a person will volunteer to lead a session "because I don't know anything about it, but would like to learn." This is fine if the person has both time and resources to educate himself to a level that will benefit the course participants. But don't put your own interests before the needs of others in the course. They won't appreciate it.

### Layout is Important

Arrange your material into patterned building blocks of information. Participants will follow (and remember) your message much easier. It will

also help you stay on track, particularly when interrupted by questions.

### Test your Outline

Ask someone you trust to critique the course outline and offer suggestions.

### Practise your Presentation

Practice might not make perfect, but it certainly helps. Practise in front of a mirror, your family, friends, pets — anywhere. Repeat your presentation until you're completely comfortable with it. Pay particular attention to timing; if your talk runs half an hour over the scheduled time, don't expect anyone to cheer.

### Develop a Checklist of Important Points

If you're well prepared and practiced, you won't need to read your presentation. Instead, make up some cue cards of important points to cover. Refer to these cards periodically to ensure you're covering all your key points.

### Create an Equipment Checklist

Someone else may be responsible for arranging the necessary equipment, but make sure you identify ALL the supplies and equipment you'll need. Some councils make this easy by having a training box which contains typical items needed in training sessions.

### Mental Preparation

When working as part of a team, encourage others to pay attention to their start and finish times. This will enhance the 'flow' of everyone's presentations, and will help you prepare mentally for when you're "on deck." Flexibility is good, but if trainers don't stick close to scheduled times, you could find yourself on stage before you're mentally prepared.

Example: Several years ago I was part of a training team. I was supposed to follow after the opening session. The trainer assured me that his session would last an hour. Great, I thought. This would take us to coffee break; I would set up then. Fifteen minutes after he started I was horrified to hear the words "...and now, over to Rob for the next session." Wow! What a rush! By the time all the props and materials

were ready, I was sweating. The session went down hill from there.

The message: arrive early to set up. It will keep your stress levels under control. You can't focus the overhead projector properly if you're pressed for time or when someone's speaking to you.

### Now Take a Deep Breath

So you've worked hard, you understand the material, you know more about the subject than most others in the room. Don't give in to superstition; that mythical person lurking at the back ready to challenge your expertise, really isn't there. Scouters are wonderful participants. They're keen to learn, ready to participate, and they *want* you to do well.

Enjoy yourself! \

### Editor's Note

Public speaking fits well into the Scout and Venturer program. See *Venturer Log* (p. 24) for more public speaking ideas.

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1st Hearts Content Group, NF.....	48.73	Burlington District, ON.....	118.20
1st Christ Church Group, NF.....	98.95	Wellington District, ON.....	1,567.14
1st Hampton Scouts, ON.....	101.80	Orillia District, ON.....	626.24
Pictou District, NS.....	102.68	1st Webbwood Group, ON.....	133.32
Niagara District Council, ON.....	208.75	4th Atikokan Group, ON.....	399.59
1st Port Union Lions Scout Group, NF.....	43.70	1st Dryden Group, ON.....	72.00
1996 Scout/Guide Craft & Hobby Display, ON.....	24.81	Petawawa District, ON.....	272.30
Edward Aitken Harris, PQ.....	30.00	Saugeen East District, ON.....	469.89
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Presqu'ile District, ON.....	441.62		
1st Minden Group, ON.....	174.33		

*This list includes donations processed between March 30, 1996 and September 26, 1996. Donations recorded after September 26 will be acknowledged in a spring issue. Scoutrees for Canada donations represent the 15% of Scoutrees for Canada proceeds designated for the Canadian Scout Brotherhood Fund. ^*

## Give Him A Day

- What shall I give to one small boy?  
A glamorous game, a tinsel toy,  
A shiny knife, a puzzle pack,  
A train that runs on curving track?  
A picture book, a real live pet...
- No, there's plenty of time for such things yet.

Give him a day for his very own.  
Just one small boy and his dad alone.  
A walk in the woods, a romp in the park,  
 A fishing trip from dawn to dark.  
Give a gift that only you can,  
The companionship of his 'old man.'  
— *Thanks to Virginia Dorais.*

## Christmas

Those of us in the Christian tradition celebrate one particular act of God's kindness and beauty at this time of year. Christmas is the story of the unlimited God becoming one of us, sharing our limitations, and helping us better understand both kindness and beauty.

- Discuss how your Beavers, Cubs and Scouts can show kindness and appreciate beauty around them during this holiday season. What special project can you start? It doesn't have to be terrifically ambitious — just a gentle way to spread the light and love of God around you.
- Can each child choose *one* person in the neighbourhood who needs a helping hand during December (e.g. a friend, a relative)? This might involve nothing more than calling up a lonely grandparent twice a week for the month and speaking on the phone. It might involve visiting someone in hospital, or taking part in a food distribution program.

Scouter's 5 Minutes, p.771

Dec. '96

## Sleeping Bag Tips

- A**warm, dry sleeping bag will improve almost any camping trip. Here are some tips and hints that are bound to improve your fall and winter camping adventures. They come from Ross Francis, the new Director of Programs (Beavers and Cubs). See his *Outdoors* column, pp. 18-19, for more sleeping bag ideas.

Why not turn these hints into a questionnaire for your group? A true/false quiz would also be fun, but discuss the answers fully.

- Afterwards, split up into sixes or patrols and make up more questions. These could involve any aspect of outdoor living: first aid, cooking, rescue, hypothermia, knot-tying, etc. Find out who knows the most about winter camping.

- An excellent, cold-weather sleeping bag placed on the ground will *not* provide as much insulation, and therefore warmth, as a less expensive bag placed on one or more thicknesses of closed-cell pads.

- Why? The cold from the ground is much more chilly than the outside air temperature. In most cases, it's more important to have more insulation *below* you than above you.

- On cold-weather camping trips, never pull the sleeping bag over your head and sleep while breathing into the bag. Your breath is full of moisture; it will reduce the insulation quality of your bag very quickly.

- When looking for a new sleeping bag, ask sales staff how long the manufacturers have been in business. What guarantee do they offer? Do they have a repair department? What is their service track record like?

A good manufacturer will guarantee products for life against all defects.

Hints, p.665

Dec '96

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- Carefully read your sleeping bag's washing/cleaning instructions. When you see, "Do not put in dryer", it means some material in the bag may melt.

- When winter camping, place boot liners inside your sleeping bag to keep them warm and dry. Do this *only* if they're dry.

- Before setting out on your trip, pack your sleepwear and/or your clothes for the next day *inside* your sleeping bag. This will make them easier to find in the dark. It'll also fill empty space inside your sleeping bag and put clothes close at hand should you get cold during the night.

- To keep the inside of your bag clean, make yourself a rectangular, inner liner from an old sheet — an excellent pre-camp activity.

- Before going to bed put some hot water in a leak-proof plastic bottle, then place it inside a wool sock as a hot water bottle. It will also provide you with something warm to drink through the night.

Discuss these other factors with your Cubs, Scouts and Venturers. Each will affect how warm you stay during cold-weather wilderness experiences.

1. Does food affect how warm or cold you stay in winter? (If you don't eat enough wholesome food and fluids during the day, your body won't have enough 'fuel' to heat you during the night when temperatures drop.)

2. Why does a wind-resistant shelter keep you warmer than one that lets drafts through? (The answer ties in with wind chill.) Why do igloos have long entrance tunnels? Why is it important to have an air hole at the top of a snow shelter?

3. Why shouldn't you sleep in the same clothes you wore all day? (They might be slightly damp from work or play; this will draw the heat from your body quickly.)

Hints, p.666

Look for opportunities to tie any activities into our Scouting Law and Promise.

— *Adapted from thoughts by Scouter Rob Brown.*

## Meeting Closing

*We Are Not Alone*

We are not alone,  
We live in God's world.

We believe in God:  
who has created and is creating,  
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,  
to reconcile and make new,  
who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:  
to celebrate God's presence,  
to live with respect in creation,  
to love and serve others,  
to seek justice and resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,  
our judge and our hope.

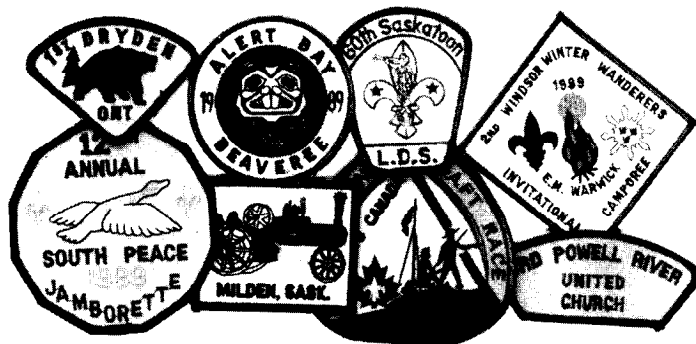
In life, in death, in life beyond death,  
God is with us.  
We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.  
— *Creed of the United Church of Canada*

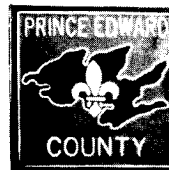
Scouter's 5 Minutes, p.772

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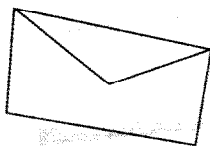
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# Pen Friends



## Australia

Debra Shaw is a Joey (Beaver) leader who would like to write to other leaders about program ideas. She also has many Beavers and Cubs who would like to write to Canadians. Contact her at: 37s Padbury Street, Hemmant 4174, Queensland, Australia.

## Britain

David Parry is my name. I'm an eighteen-year-old Venturer who would like to get to know a Canadian. How about it? Write to me at 11 Cormorant Close, Sydney Crewe, Cheshire, CW1 1LN, Great Britain.

Rowena White, a Scout patrol leader in a co-ed troop, has 22 Scouts and 4 leaders who would love to write to Canadian Scouts. Rowena's address: 50 Deri Road, Penylan, Cardiff, Wales Britain, CG2 5AJ.

Contact the following British groups c/o Roy and Joan Walker, "Waybrook", Ewing Close, Reepham, Norfolk, NR10 4JQ, phone: 0603-870352. Scouters Roy and Joan Walker will find British pen pals for all individuals or groups seeking an overseas friend.

Venturers from a company from Akeley in Leicestershire plan to visit Banff in July '97 and would like to contact a Venturer company from that area.

David Squirrel, a nine-year-old Cub would like a Canadian friend. He's from the 1st North Walsham (Norfolk) Pack.

Katie Smith, 14, is from the 1st Canvey Island (Essex) Troop.

Scout Paul White, 14, is from the 16th Basildon (Essex) Troop.

Luke Byne, 13, Scouts with the 3rd Basildon (Essex) Troop.

Steve Silk is a Cub leader who would like to exchange program ideas and badges with a leader from British Columbia.

David Devoy is a Scout leader with the 52nd Saltcoats in Scotland.

Debbie Phillips is a Beaver Commissioner in Warrington, Cheshire. She's interested in Canadian program ideas for Beaver-aged children.

Mandy Prior is a district Beaver leader in Canterbury, Kent. He too would like some program ideas.

The following groups would like Canadian pen pals. Contact them through Joan and Roy Walker.

4th Edgehill (Staffs) Beavers: Carole Harrison.

4th Sheppey (Kent) Beavers: Jill McKenna.

6th Bposton (Lincs) Beavers: Carol Ellerby.

24th Swansea (Wales) Beavers: Kim Davies.

5th Burgess Hill Cubs (Sussex): Sue Taylor.

1st N. Elmham Cubs (Norfolk): Jane Neenan.

1st Gatley Cubs (Manchester): Lee Bassman.

44th Norwich Cubs (Norfolk): Barbara Muntendam would like a pack from Edmonton.

Anglo Yarmouth Venturers (Norfolk): Laura Murray.

Orpheus Chesterfield Venturers (Derby): Alan Walker.

## Canada

The 1st Bonnington South Slocan Troop would like to contact Scouts and Venturers in the Atlantic provinces. Interests include hiking, canoeing and winter camping. Write to Dave Anderson, R.R. #1, S-12 C-5, Slocan Park, BC, VOG 2E0

Three male Venturers with interests as diverse as computers, hockey and football, drawing and design, would like to contact other Venturers. Write to Chad, Colin or Paul, c/o the 11th Bowmanville Troop, 16 Flaxman Ave., Bowmanville, ON, L1C 4S6.

## Columbia

Two Columbians, one a Scout (Samir Julian Sanchez) and the other a leader (Jefe de Tropa), speak only Spanish, but they're hopeful about finding Canadian pen pals. They'd like to exchange ideas, badges and Scouting anecdotes. Here are their addresses: Samir Julian Sanchez, Carrera 24 No. 80-52, Torre "F", Apt. 203, Bucaramanga, Santander, Columbia; Jefe de Tropa, Guillermo A. Gutierrez, Carrera 23 No. 102-13, Barrio Provenza, Bucaramanga, Santander, Columbia.

## Ghana

Kwabane Ofori is interested in movies and tourism. He'd like to get to know several Venturers to learn more about Canada. Write to him c/o Mr. S.A. Owusu, P.O. Box M'161, Osu-Accra, Ghana.

## Greece

Kiriak Papachristou, is a twelve-year-old female Scout interested in modelling, sports and music. Write to her in English at: 21 Mitropoliti Hrisanthai, 55236 Panorama, Greece.

## Korea

Miss Park Myeong Shim is an English teacher in Korea who would like her students to learn more about the Scouting Movement through exchanging letters with Canadians. Write to her students c/o Miss Park Myeong Shim, C.P.O. Box 3315, Seoul 100-633, Korea.

Three Korean Scouts would like to make friends with Canadians. Here are their names, interests and addresses:

- Fifteen-year-old Han Ji-Hae, a female, is interested in perfume collecting, dancing and music. Write: 106-1009 Woomyun Apartment, Woomyun Dong, Seocho Ku, Seoul, Korea.
- Fourteen-year-old Jang Won-Ho, a male, enjoys bicycling and music. Write: 232-202 Samil Dong, Kangdong Ku, Seoul, Korea.
- Kim Tae Woog, 13, loves video games, reading and stamp collecting. His address: 102-901 Samhwan Apartment, Myong-II 2 Dong, Kangdong Ku, Seoul, Korea.

## Latvia

Martins Kaprans, 15, enjoys sports and speaking English. His address: Zalenieku PAG, Jelgavas RAJ, Kastani-15, LV-3011, Latvia.

Maris Simanovs, 10, speaks English and loves Cubs. His address: Skolas 65B, DZ34 Jurmala, LV-2016, Latvia.

Arturs Levalds, 14, is interested in wildlife. Write to him in English at: Laivenieku 6, Liepaja, LV-3401, Latvia.

Write to Andrejs Gudelis, a thirteen-year-old boy who speaks German and Danish, at: Tallinas 32-20, Jurmala, LV-2016, Latvia.

### 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.

# Wear It Properly

I like the Scout uniform, but I've noticed that many youth wear the sash all the time, even on hikes and service projects.

*The Scout Handbook* says to wear it only during ceremonial or formal occasions, not during games, tree plantings and camps where it can get in the way.

We have a great uniform. Let's wear it properly

— David Giles, North Bay, ON.

## Dry Hiking and Camping

October's *Outdoor* column entitled, "The Well-Packed Backpack", tells readers to put all clothing in extra large zip-lock bags to keep them dry.

A Scouter in our troop, Dan Harmer, conducted tests to find the best method to keep clothing dry; zip-lock bags failed miserably. They always opened and let water in no matter how much air was removed from them.

We find that the best way to pack clothes is to put them in a large freezer bag sealed with a twist tie. Then we fold the closure over on itself and seal it again with another twist tie. Through experience, we've also found sleeping bags are best packed in strong garbage bags.

— Karen Gatién, Halifax, NS.

## Hidden Meanings in Our Scouting Emblem

Have you ever wondered about the meaning of our Scouting emblem?

The Scout emblem represents an arrowhead that points north. It leads Scouts in the right direction — upward — showing the way in doing one's duty and helping others.

The band binding the arrowhead's three sections together stands for the bond of brotherhood among Scouts. Under the arrowhead is a scroll with



the Motto, "Be Prepared." The scroll is turned up at the ends like a Scout's mouth because he willingly does his duty with a smile.

Two sources provide more information on our emblem: *Scouting for Boys* (Brotherhood Edition), by B.-P., and *Tenderfoot to Queen's Scout*, published by Scouts Canada's National Council, revised 1964.

— Sidney Gaudry, Regina, SK.

## Start a Scouting Group in March

Last January we polled two local schools to find out if anyone wanted to

join Beavers or Cubs. The response was amazing! We started a pack up after March break. Because we only had ten weeks of programming before the end of the Scouting year, we decided that the Cubs didn't have to buy a uniform until fall. Our leaders were afraid the additional expense (in addition to registration and dues) might restrict membership.

We planned to make the ten weeks so exciting that the kids would be incredibly excited about the coming fall program. It worked! Our new pack has 30-35 Cubs — 40% are female. It's terrific. Our late start last spring generated enough enthusiasm to create a full pack this year.

— Susan Dale, London, ON.

## Recycle Your Stamps

If your group is looking for a way to help other Scouting youth around the world, why not send unwanted stamps to me?

I'm the Stamp Bank manager. Our group will sort your stamps and offer them to dealers. The funds go to help Scouting projects around the world. Here's our address:

D.W.L. Read  
Stamp Bank Manager  
Canadian Council of B.-P. Guilds  
1404 Hillcrest Dr.  
Swift Current, SK  
S9H 1N9. A

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\$33.36

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over \$1500.00 profit

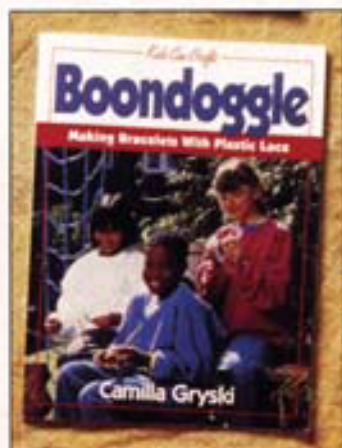
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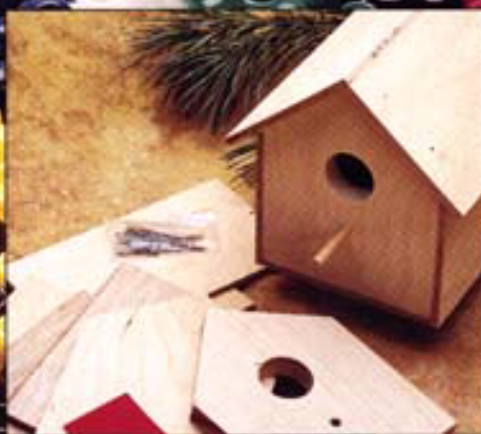




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