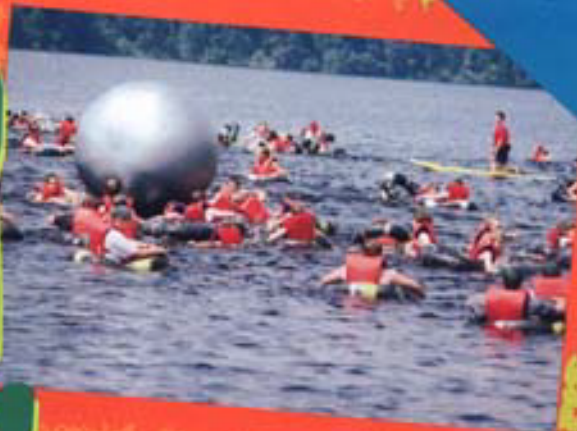


# the leader

October 1997

VOLUME 28, NO. 2

See our  
Volunteer  
Screening  
insert



# CJ '97



# SERVING YOUTH

## — A Pleasure and Responsibility

by David Rattray

**S**ERVING AS A VOLUNTEER is one of the most rewarding, caring and unselfish experiences. At CJ'97 I witnessed the evidence repeatedly. Even now, I'm still filled with excitement and pride in being a part of the Scouting Movement.

The tremendous success of CJ'97 was made possible through the incredibly hard work of staff members and large numbers of committed volunteers, leaders, Offers of Service, and various committee members. What impressed me were not only the volunteers who were attending their first jamboree, but also those adults who had come again and again. I overheard one volunteer who had attended all nine Canadian jamborees; this person was planning for the 10th. What dedication!

While the euphoria of CJ'97 is still fresh, we must also appreciate the tireless efforts of those adults who were not able to attend the jamboree. Volunteers like these are the backbone of Scouting.

### Awesome Responsibility

Whether it's a jamboree involving thousands of adults and youth, a camp, or a section meeting night, parents expect Scouting volunteers to provide a safe and secure environment for their children. We have an enormous obligation to ensure this happens. In my view we are fulfilling our expected responsibilities.

As a parent of two sons, I know the greatest asset we have is our children. How we, and others, interact with them will profoundly affect the way they develop into responsible citizens. Scouting is one of the largest youth-serving

people affected, but to improve our practices to reduce the likelihood of future occurrences.

### Volunteer Screening Changes

At its May meetings, National Council approved a set of policies and procedures for Volunteer Screening that will enhance Scouting's current practices. Our new twelve-step process will be phased in beginning this September; it should be fully operational by September 1998. Scouting is one of the first, large youth-serving agencies in Canada to put such a comprehensive program in place. I salute all those who have worked hard to develop this program. If it can prevent just one bad incident, all our effort will be fully justified.

Introducing a new program like this will inevitably cause planning and coordination difficulties. At least initially, it will involve more time from volunteers and extra costs. However, please keep in mind the screening program's purpose: protecting youth.

Scouting membership is climbing, but with greater numbers of youth comes a need for more adult volunteers. Our new adult screening program could not have been more timely. We've got it; let's use it! ^



*Celebrating CJ'97!*

agencies in Canada, and the largest worldwide. Over our 90-year history, tens of thousands of adults have provided support and instruction to millions of youth in this country. Many successful adults today have been directly influenced by Scouting.

Given the size of our membership and our long history, it is not surprising that on rare occasions a serious and undesirable event happens between an adult volunteer and a youth member. As an organization, Scouting considers these situations absolutely deplorable. Scouts Canada takes every action possible to not only work in a compassionate and supportive manner with those

*David Rattray*

David Rattray  
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Photo: Wayne Barrett

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## FEATURES

CJ'97 Come Wake the Giant! .....	4
Top Secret: "For Your Eyes Only" .....	8
"Scout's Honour" .....	11
Bump in the Night: A Ghost Story .....	12
Book Talk .....	14
What Does it Take to Create Great Photographs? .....	16
Scouting Photo Contest .....	18

## REGULARS

Swap Shop Time to plan a Sixer and Secondery rally .....	15
Fun at the Pond Thanksgiving and Halloween .....	20
Outdoors Choose the right pack for your back .....	22
For Volunteers Service Scouter = customer service representative .....	25
Patrol Corner Clean up your act (and home) .....	26
Network Orientation and probation for new members .....	30
Venturer Log How to become an effective "head" hunter .....	32
Sharing/Paksak "I've got to tell my friends!" .....	34

## ALSO

Editorial Page .....	2	Pen Friends .....	33
Cross-Country Photos .....	19	Scouter's 5 & Recipes .....	35
Supply News .....	31	Letters .....	38



**Down and dirty at Mudmania!**

page 4

# CJ '97

COME WAKE

THE GIANT!

by Allen Macartney

"I'M RICH!  
I'M A  
BILLIONAIRE!"

Eleven-year-old Justin Mote's eyes sparkled with anticipation as others from his 1<sup>st</sup> Strathroy Ontario Troop crowded around him. With ten sets of wide eyes peering down at his gold pan, Justin swirled the gravel and water around one more time until everyone could see the flakes of real gold.

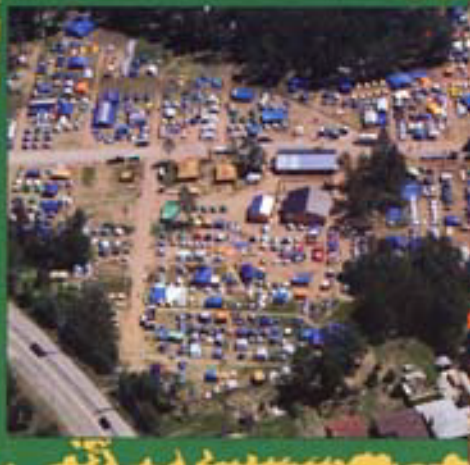
"Wow! There really *is* gold here!" someone mumbled, incredulously.

Justin was one of 13,536 Scouts, Venturers and adults (including 2,344 Offers of Service) who participated in the 9<sup>th</sup> Canadian Jamboree (CJ97) from July 12-19 in Thunder Bay, Ontario.

Covering 150 hectares, and surrounded by the city of Thunder Bay, the jamboree site circled Boulevard Lake where many water activities occurred. The CJ site had everything that you would expect from a town of 13,000 people: four grocery stores, a trained security force (including police and fire fighters), a computer network, telephone lines, plumbing and electricity.

The jamboree opened with a short speech by Chief Scout Roméo Leblanc and the raising of the Canadian and jamboree flags. Then, Camp Chief Herb Pitts, and Ovide Mercredi (National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations), addressed the crowd of excited youth. The Sky Hawks (the Canadian Forces parachute team) floated down into the jamboree site to the cheers of everyone, as superstar band BareNaked Ladies took the stage and turned up the heat.

"I loved the entertainment last night," said Nadalie Brault from Victoria, BC. "Just meeting people here is terrific! I'm having the greatest time of my life."





Canadians like Nadalie weren't the only ones attending CJ. Scouts from around the world came, including Trinidad, Greece, Finland, Australia, Pakistan, United States, even the Ukraine.

#### Thunder Dome: Always Boomin'

Thunder Dome (the jamboree's hub), located on the western shore of Boulevard Lake, rocked with foot-stompin' karaoke music day and night. Here, jugglers and bouncing clowns mingled in the crowds, while magic shows and spine-tingling snake and reptile shows attracted thousands.

Have you ever wanted to cuddle a three-metre Burmese Python?

Almost 100 Scouts and Venturers at CJ had the chance to sit with one coiled on their lap! Thirteen-year-old Mark Zerr, from Saskatoon, SK, had a large boa constrictor around his neck for five minutes. The snake wasn't purring, but it was obviously content.

At Thunder Dome you could make a leather knife holder, learn about railway safety, or help build a cedar strip canoe. "Spaceball was a real rush," said Scott Bugden of the 10<sup>th</sup> All Saints Group from Corner Brook, NF. "I spun

upside down and all around like an astronaut. I'm just about ready to help out on the Mir space station."

Around Boulevard Lake a whole series of other exciting activities were available.

"Mudmania was dirty, but a lot of fun" according to Seang Cau of the 79<sup>th</sup> Venturer Company in Regina, SK. This event proved to be a jamboree favourite.

Water, Water Everywhere was popular with Michelle McDonald from Charlottetown, PEI. She enjoyed lobbing water balloons at other people

Photos by: Wayne Bennett and Alan Macgregor



with a giant slingshot. (Aaah! The perfect way to cool off on a hot day.)

The Wild West Activity Centre offered mechanical bucking broncos, chuckwagon racing, and much more. At other places you could indulge your artistic talents by practising your graffiti skills (as did Montreal West Scout Scott McMillan) or try

out the latest computer graphics in *Scoutship Enterprise*. You could even make a paddle, learn to fly-fish, try in-line skating, use the climbing wall, or pan for Klondike gold.

#### Murder Mystery Canoe Course

Off-site activities abounded. These included trips to Old Fort William, biking and luge racing at Big Thunder, and hiking and canoeing at Sleepy Giant Provincial Park. At spectacular Hazelwood Lake, participants could go fishing, canoeing, swimming and hiking. Here, they could even indulge their detective passions for murder mystery intrigue.

Want to hear more? Well, it all started with Bob. He was a pros-

pector and gold miner who died one summer years ago under strange circumstances. Following a circuitous canoe route around the lake, Venturers had to search for scraps of Bob's log book and uncover clues to find his killer. This adventure involved an overnight camp; everyone had to carry their own food and supplies.

#### Subcamp Mania!

The jamboree was broken into ten main subcamps; two additional subcamps were for the First Nations program and those volunteering as Offers of Service. After the day's main activities, action switched to the subcamps (named after a major river

MORVISION PRESENTS

## VIDEO Memories

Relive eight great days  
at Boulevard Lake!

Get your own copy of the official CJ'97 souvenir video. You'll see vivid footage of the Opening ceremonies, Old Fort William, Subcamp activities, Mud Mania and more!

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## Venturer Service Program — A Chance to Serve Others

This year 250 Venturers and 25 advisors offered their expertise at CJ'97 as part of the Venturer Service Program (VSP). Since its beginning at CJ'81, the Venturer Service Program (VSP) has blossomed into a vital component of every jamboree.

What does the VSP involve?

"Months before the jamboree, Venturers applied for a variety of positions that interested them personally and vocationally," said Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Venturer advisor and program director, John Cross. "Then on July 5, they arrived on-site for a five-day training course that involved both classroom and hands-on work." This training included everything from basic leadership skills to instruction how to handle situational emergencies.

Some Venturers worked in public relations (writing newspaper articles and taking photographs), while others worked in security (including fire), medical services, and information management. Quite a few worked in the sub-camps, or in off-site activities.

"It was great fun!" said Venturer Tim Gladwell from Pickering, ON. "I learned to deal with a whole lot of different people."

John Cross sums up the overall value of the program. "This program is incredibly valuable to CJ. Not only does it provide an important service, but it also helps develop our youth."



in the province). Manitoba's subcamp featured activities which included sumo wrestling and buffalo chip tossing! In New Brunswick's subcamp you could silk screen, practise knotting, or enjoy wide games. In Ontario's subcamp you could take part in the Niagara Plunger Award, or join a Gorgeball Tournament.

#### First Nations Program

"Run faster!"

Troy Pollock's Scouting friends from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Hiland Creek Troop, ON, yelled encouragement as he raced around the wooden skeleton of a teepee winding a rope encircling the top of the poles which towered six metres high. Within an hour the troop had the poles lashed together, the canvas covering on and pegged down, and their sleeping bags arranged inside.

"They're all pumped up!" said their leader, Ian Cooper, grinning. "This evening's going to be great." That night eight Scouts, as well as Scouter Cooper, slept in the teepee after a fascinating, and educational native campfire program.

This teepee-building and sleepover activity formed part of a First Nations exchange program designed to give youth a real taste of aboriginal culture. Other activities included storytelling, native sports and powwows, games, arts and crafts. CJ youth could also challenge each other with a series of physically demanding Inuit games.

#### 19WJ Here I Come!

Loreto Caro was part of a contingent of 22 youth and adults from Chile. She proved a convincing ambassador

for the next world jamboree in Chile.

"You have got to come!" she said, bubbling enthusiastically. "It's going to be the *first* world jamboree ever in South America, the *first* in a Spanish-speaking country, the *first* jamboree in a developing nation, and the *last* jamboree of this millennium."

"We're planning the biggest new year's party in the world at 19WJ," she said, "and it's only 17 months away!"

#### Best Ever Jamboree

High-spirited excitement.

That's what everyone experienced as the final moments of the jamboree ticked away. A huge crowd gathered in front of the stage with mounting anticipation as the night sky darkened. Members of a local bluegrass

band ("The Fake McCoys") bounced energetically around the stage with their banjos and guitars, whipping up everyone for the grand finale.

Camp Chief Herb Pitts officially closed the jamboree, then as the CJ'97 flag lowered and the CJ'2001 flag rose into the night sky, MuchMusic's Video Dance Party took the stage to the cheers of thousands of voices.

What did the Scouts and Venturers think of their CJ experience?

Comments ranged everything from "amazing" and "tiringly challenging", to "psychopathically great."

Bryan Hall of the 7<sup>th</sup> Yellowknife Troop summed up most people's feelings with these simple words: "CJ was unbelievably cool! I loved the adventure!" ^

# Thank You Jamboree Scouters!



On behalf of the officers of the National Council and the youth involved in the 9<sup>th</sup> Canadian Jamboree, please accept our most sincere thanks for a job well done. National jamborees continue to be a highlight in the lives of many Scouting youth. Nearly 30% of Scout and Venturer membership attended CJ'97. The success of this jamboree was directly due to your interest and support. Without your experience, freely given time and talents, it could not have taken place.

To your families and, in many cases, your employers who ensured that you could be available at the right time, we also extend our deepest appreciation.

*Herb Pitts*

Herb Pitts  
National Commissioner

*David Rattray*

David Rattray  
National President

*John Pettifer*

John Pettifer  
Chief Executive

Photos by: Wayne Bennett and Allen MacCarthy

# TOP SECRET

by Bruce Morris

# "FOR

## SECRET AGENTS, SPIES, SHADOWY FIGURES, ADVENTURE AND CHALLENGE. This easily-adaptable program is bound to ignite the imaginations of your Beavers, Cubs or Scouts.

"It can't be true!"

The news astounded Cubs from the 2nd Sechelt Pack in BC. A foreign power had hatched a diabolical plan to blow up Camp Byng, their local Scout camp.

"We've got to stop them!" their Spymaster (Akela) said as he took out some clues left behind by the foreign agents. Just then the fax machine started up and more clues arrived from an undercover mole. The only way to save the camp would be if all the Cubs became spies themselves, followed the clues, and found and disarmed the bombs planted around camp.

Because pack members couldn't be sure who was on their side, they broke up into sixes and trusted only those on their own team. Over the next several hours they followed compass bearings that led them around camp, built spy periscopes, practised camouflage techniques, and made emergency shelters.

### Break that Cypher!

We had many different types of codes and cyphers for our Cubs. You can make yours as simple or as complex as you like. It might involve writing your message in blocks of five capital letters (e.g. ILIKE THISC ODEXX). Notice how it's hard to read? Your mind doesn't expect to see words appear in this form, so it fights with your eyes until it either wins (sees the cypher) or gives up.

Make this cypher a little harder by adding the letters "AEA" between each word; start with an "X". Try to decypher this message: XAEAL ETSAE ASEEA



**"WHO ARE YOU GOING TO CALL...?  
CODEBREAKERS!"**

EAIFA EAYOU AEAAR EAEAR EALY  
LY AEADO INGAE AYOUR AEABE  
STXAE.

If you pass this message using a second code, it's called "double-encrypted." (Most diplomatic and military messages transmitted today are double-encrypted, using very advanced cypher systems.)

Another easy encoding system involves giving each letter of the alphabet a number. If A=1, B=2 and so on, then what would the following simple message break out to? 1-18-5 25-15-21 4-15-9-14-7 25-15-21-18 2-5-19-20?

Now give each letter of the alphabet a random number (e.g. A=4, B=1, C=28). As long as those on your side know the code, they can read your messages.

### Stick Scrambler

A stick scrambler is easy to make. Both you and your secret contact need

two pencils the same size. Wind a thin strip of paper tightly around the pencil and fasten both ends with tape. (See diagram, p.10.) Now write a message on the strip, turning the pencil to add more lines. When you unwind the paper, the letters will be scrambled up, seemingly without any order. Your contact can descramble them by wrapping the paper around his pencil.

### Spy Periscope

We made our spy periscopes — perfect for shadowing other groups — from long, thick cardboard tubes with holes

cut at either end on opposite sides. (You could use cardboard milk cartons.) Cubs then hot-glued small, pocket-sized pieces of mirror at a 45° angle, and painted their periscopes in a camouflaged pattern.

### Grand Finale

As the Cubs successfully completed each activity, they received a sealed envelope that contained a piece of an encoded puzzle that told them where to find their bomb. (These bombs could be suspicious-looking boxes that actually contain their lunches.) Our program ended with everyone meeting back around the campfire, sharing their experiences and joining in skits. Great fun! ^

— Bruce Morris Scouts with the 2nd Sechelt Cub Pack, BC.

Photo: Alan Macrae



# YOUR EYES ONLY"

## "I Spy"

by Lynn Belliveau

**O**UR LEADERS TIED A SPY theme into a highly successful sixer's and seconder's rally. We set the scene by telling everyone how B.-P. had spied on the enemy fortress at Kotor by posing as a butterfly collector and artist. He walked right up to the fortress with nets and sketch books, and asked the guards if they had seen any rare butterflies. They let him wander all over; as he did, he sketched the fortress and gun positions into an intricate picture of a butterfly. (See B.-P.'s illustration on p.10.)

How can your Beavers, Cubs or Scouts hide secret messages in their art? In groups, see who can hide a picture of a tent and a flag in an airplane or canoe drawing.

### "I spy with my little..."

Beavers and young Cubs would appreciate a game of "I spy with my little

eye." Not only will it improve everyone's listening skills, but it will help young people to really notice objects around them — a good outside activity.

### Knotty Spies

Because spies have to know how to survive wherever they find themselves, we included knot-tying activities into our theme. (See the April '97 *Leader* for more knot-tying ideas.) Tie this into a pioneering skills project.

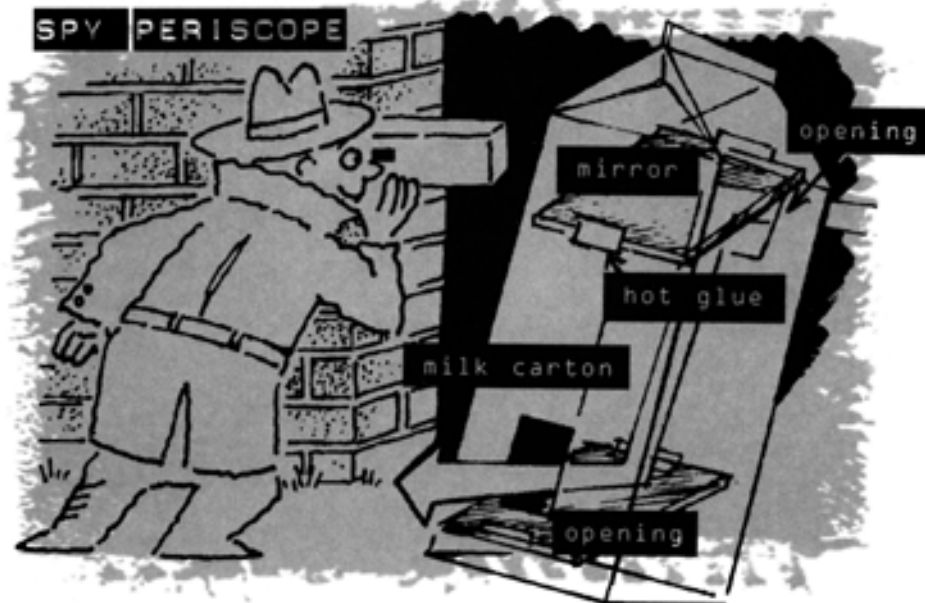
The scene: A suspected spy was arrested at an airport as he arrived from a hostile country. After police searched him, all they found was a piece of string with knots tied in it. With no other evidence or proof, the police had to let the suspect go freely to his foreign embassy. Should they have let him go?

Ask your Cubs and Scouts this question: Is it possible to send a secret message on string or rope? Give each six or patrol a long piece of thick butcher string (2 metres) and tell them they have to use Morse Code to send a message to another spy. Their problem: How can they do it? (Hint: a knot represents a dot, two closely-tied knots represent a dash.)

## MORSE CODE

**M**orse Code has been around for many decades. Use it to send messages with rope, flashlights or any other means.

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



### Code Flasher

Give each six or patrol 2 batteries, a flashlight bulb, plastic-covered wire, a strip of aluminum foil, paper clips, masking tape, thumb tacks, a piece of heavy cardboard, two pencils and paper.

Here's the challenge: Your secret agent Cubs or Scouts must make a code flashing light to send Morse Code or other signals. After the code flasher is made, each group has to create a code and demonstrate it to a leader.

### Secret Agent Disguises

Everyone likes changing their appearance. Gather a number of props like trench coats, hats, scarves, boots, and sunglasses. Use techniques like pillows under coats (like Santa), towels on top of shoulders under a coat (like a football player), and masks to change your shape. (See diagram)

It's easy to make false glasses from cardboard, bushy eyebrows, beards and mustaches with cotton, and bulging noses with plasticine. Comb your hair in an unusual way, then use mascara to change your colour. Talcum powder on your hair and eyebrows will make you look much older. Wrinkles can appear on your forehead and cheeks if you draw them with a very soft pencil (3B or 4B).

### Invisible Inks

Spies need ways to write messages to their friends. Here are various invisible ink recipes.

#### Lemon Ink

You need a lemon, a small bowl, paper, and a sharpened, burnt out match stick. Squeeze lemon juice into the bowl, dip the match stick into the 'ink' and write a message on the paper. When the ink dries it becomes invisible. Read it by holding the paper up to a bright light. (Make other inks with milk, onion juice or Coca-Cola.)

#### Potato Inkwel

Cut a potato in half, scoop a hole out with a spoon, and scrape juice from the top of the potato into the hole. (See diagram) Dip a sharpened end of a used match into the potato ink. When the ink dries it becomes invisible. Put the paper in a warm oven (120° C) to make the message visible.

#### Wax Writing

Write a message or secret illustration on a piece of paper using a white candle. The message will become visible when you sprinkle the paper with powdered instant coffee or coloured chalk scrapings.

### Flag Identification Relay

Divide your Cubs or Scouts into teams standing in lines. Draw 10-12 national flags on a single piece of paper, and duplicate the sheet, one per team. Place the sheet in front of each team.

On "Go!", the first members of each team must run to their sheet, identify the country represented by one of the flags on the paper, and race back so their next team member can take her turn. Assign one point to each correctly answered flag. The team with the fastest time and the most answers correct, wins.

### False Sole

Spies often have to deliver secret messages. Where can your little spies hide their messages? Try rolling a small message inside a ballpoint pen, or putting it inside a hat liner.

Make a false sole for a shoe by putting a shoe on a piece of cereal

packaging cardboard; trace around the outside. Cut out just inside the line, and fit this inside the shoe. Now slip a message between the real sole and the false sole. What enemy would think to search here?

No matter what the age, a spy theme provides many opportunities to teach Scouting lessons. It will fit into a weekend camp, a theme evening, even a winter survival hike. ^

### Program Links

Cubs: Camping Badge, Trailcraft Badge, Green Star  
Scouts: B.P. Woodsman Badge, Scoutcraft Badge, Exploring Badge.

— When Lynn Belliveau isn't leading a Cub pack, she's lurking in the shadows around Moncton, NB.

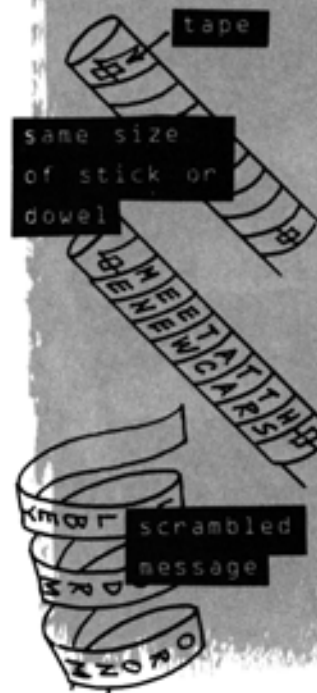
## CHANGE YOUR SHAPE

It's easy to change your shape with a few pillows or towels.

pillow



## STICK SCRAMBLER



## POTATO INKWEL



# “Scout’s Honour”: *Now that’s Good PR!*

by John Rietveld

**H**OW OFTEN HAVE YOU heard someone refer to a Scout’s Honour?

When I was a Scout one of our Tenderfoot requirements was to know the ten Scout Laws. My leader wasn’t satisfied if we just rhymed them off by memory; he expected us to answer questions about each Law. What does it *really* mean? Describe how the Laws are reflected in your daily lives? Not an easy task for an eleven-year-old, but we gave simple examples as best we could.

When asked to explain the meaning of “a Scout is thrifty,” our reply usually referred to having a bank account. Once I was asked to explain the first Scout Law, “a Scout’s honour is to be trusted.” My patrol leader coached me to say it meant a Scout does not tell a lie and keeps his word.

## **Integrity You Can Trust**

At the time I never really gave it much thought, but since becoming Scouts Canada’s Public Relations specialist, the importance of telling the truth (completing a task or keeping a promise) has become far more significant. If I cannot answer a reporter’s question, I tell him that I’ll call back with an answer. In addition to this promise, I’ve developed the habit of saying “Scout’s Honour” or “I’ll do my best.” It’s a guarantee to the caller that adds a degree of integrity to my actions. Of course, then I make the return call a priority — especially important since I represent Scouts Canada. While the answer may not always be the one a reporter wants, the fact I called back may be as important as the information itself. Good relations develop between Scouting and the media when we keep our word.

Recently the Canadian Public Relations Society (CPRS) commissioned a public opinion survey regarding honesty. The survey (conducted by Roper Canada in March),

found that most people believe that fellow employees and management are fairly truthful, but not completely honest. Half of the respondents thought people are *less honest* today than they were ten years ago.

The survey asked how top management would react to various situations. Most respondents (80%) believe that management would inform customers of a major mistake. Two out of three

(64%) believe that management answers the media honestly. But the results suggest some scepticism or mistrust. Open and transparent public relations might address these concerns.

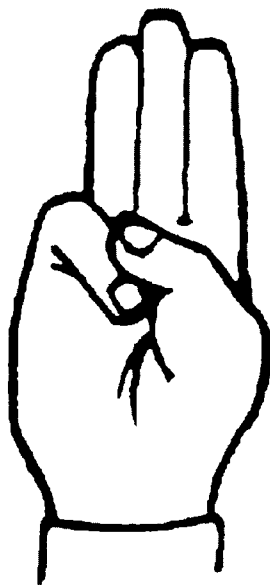
## **Honesty: The Best Policy**

“We must guard against information manipulation and half truths,” says Jean Valin APR, President of CPRS Canada. “We must be more ethical in our practice of public relations. Organizations will always be well served by telling the truth. It takes a long time to build your credibility, and an even longer time to rebuild it.”

In *Scouting for Boys*, B.-P. comments about a Scout’s Honour: “When you are grown up you must still carry out what you learned as a Scout — and especially that you will go on being honourable and trustworthy.”

Honesty is the best policy whether we are writing material for a newsletter or an Internet site, responding to questions from leaders, or answering media inquiries. Tell what you know to be the truth, don’t exaggerate or speculate, and never be afraid to say, “I don’t know, but I’ll find out and get back to you — Scout’s Honour.” Once you’ve made this promise, follow through!

Once  
you’ve made  
the promise,  
follow  
through!



## **Expand Your Readership**

After ten years of writing PR articles for **the Leader**, I admit there are times when I sit and stare at a blank computer screen for some time before inspiration strikes. Then I need to research the topic, ensure its relevance to PR and finally sit down to write the piece.

Are you a PR volunteer who would like to share some of your valuable experiences and insights? If so, write me c/o **the Leader** or e-mail me at [jrietveld@scouts.ca](mailto:jrietveld@scouts.ca). I promise to respond to all offers — Scout’s Honour!^

# BUMP IN THE NIGHT

## A GHOST

**I**T WAS WHILE MS. PERRY WAS OUT SHOPPING and I was working in the basement — a dark dungeon of a place with a mud floor — that I first met Elsa. I looked up from my work and saw a tall beauty with curly, reddish-blond hair smiling at me. She was about my age.

"Hello," said Elsa as she came down the stairs. "I'm Ms. Perry's niece. I live nearby. My great-grandfather built this house. We Perrys have always lived here."

The girl seemed to brighten up the whole dingy basement. The walls were made of natural rocks. Chinks and cracks in it allowed the wind to whistle through, making a ghostly moaning sound at times.

"Jason? How did you, a boy from Georgia, get a job up here in Canada?"

"I'm just lucky," I said. Then I told this new friend my story. Ms. Perry is our neighbour in Georgia. She is an elderly snowbird who lives down south during the winter then goes home to Canada in the summer. Last spring she told me she needed a handyman, and hired me during my vacation.

"So here I am in Canada working in Ms. Perry's summer home," I said to Elsa.

The house (a spooky old, weather-worn, grey building) was right on the ocean. It stood three stories high, and had a round turret and a widow's walk. Swamp grass surrounded it and grew down to the water's edge. Sometimes during a storm, sea water rolled up almost to the front door. There was loads of work for a handyman like me.

The next time Elsa visited me, Ms. Perry had gone to town. I was working in the kitchen, just finishing tearing up the old floor, when I thought I saw a ghost. It gave me quite a fright, but I told myself that it was probably just the dust swirling around. After all, it was a pretty windy day.

"Look out," I said to Elsa with a smirk. "There's a ghost around."

"What did it look like?" she asked seriously.

"It was a lady dressed in grey, who seemed to be staring out the window," I laughed self-consciously. "She disappeared when I saw her."

Elsa didn't crack even a brief smile. "That's why no one in the neighbourhood will work here," she replied seriously. "The place is haunted."

"Oh sure," I said shaking my head. "You saw old Aunt Lil looking for Uncle Bill. He drowned at sea and never came home," Elsa whispered, a strange look on her face. "Even though Aunt Lil's been dead for fifty years, she still keeps looking for him."

"Great story," I said, chuckling nervously.

Elsa kept me company most of the summer. She was wonderful. The work would have been lonely without her in that near-empty house.

One night a loud THUMP! THUMP! THUMP! woke me. The next day I asked Elsa about it.

"That was Captain Perry walking around on his wooden leg. He died many years ago in the room right beside yours." I was not particularly happy to hear this news.

## HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS



**D**iscuss these safety tips with children in your group before Halloween. Let them tell you why each item is on the list.

- ✓ Costumes should be bright or made from reflective material.
- ✓ Avoid children's costumes with long capes or droopy pants; these could cause falls.
- ✓ Inspect everyone's candy before they eat it. No snacking while gathering the loot!
- ✓ Avoid masks; they can obstruct a child's view at night.
- ✓ Set perimeters in your neighbourhood.
- ✓ Carry a flashlight.
- ✓ Use an environmentally-friendly bag. They are less likely to tear and can be painted to match the costume.

# THE NIGHT

## STORY

by Edith Paveley

Next day, Ms. Perry asked me to repair the broken, banging shutter on an upstairs window. "That'll put the captain back in his grave," I told Elsa with a wink. She just shrugged.

I painted a lot that summer; it struck me as strange that the colour was always grey. Grey walls, grey woodwork, even grey floors.

"Ghosts don't show up well against grey," was Elsa's explanation.

Ms. Perry had me working on many random noises in that old house. I hammered squeaky floor boards, sawed branches off old trees that banged on the house, and bolted down loose staircases. It didn't seem to make much difference. In the night, more noises would echo down the dark halls. Whenever I mentioned ghosts, Ms. Perry would tell me to speak sense, not nonsense.

One evening Ms. Perry and I heard a scratching sound at the door. Instantly she stiffened. When I went to the door, the scratching stopped. Nothing was there. Next day I mentioned this to Elsa and as usual she had a ghostly answer.

"Aunty accidentally killed her dog years ago, but the dog has never forgiven her. It keeps coming back, trying to get into the house."

"Great! Now we have a ghost dog."

Elsa didn't appreciate my joking and turned away without saying a word. It was late August and I didn't see her again that summer. She didn't even come to say goodbye. That bothered me. We had become good friends and had shared many stories.

### Homeward Bound

On my last day in Canada, as Ms. Perry walked with me to her car so she could drive me to the train station, I asked her for Elsa's address. The answer shocked me.

Ms. Perry turned white when I told her about Elsa and our summer friendship. She reached out a hand to steady herself on a grey fence; I thought she was going to faint.

"Jason," she whispered in a hoarse voice, barely audible above the breeze in the trees. "You couldn't have seen my niece Elsa. It's impossible." She took a deep breath, then said something that weakened my own knees.

"Elsa died ten years ago."

— Edith Paveley lives in Crystal Beach, Ontario.



## EXCELLENT HALLOWEEN RESOURCES

**S**toddart Publishers has a group of outstanding books/kits in the *Action Pact* series that are perfect for Halloween and other parties throughout the year. Their *Human Body* kit comes complete with an amazing, one-metre tall skeleton that you can put together in about one hour. The kit also includes a body organ model, an educational book, action cards, a poster, and much more.

*Dinosaur* is another in this great series. This kit comes with a dinosaur skeleton to build, a poster, a survival board game, profile cards, and more. Both are a "must have" for any Cub pack.

- ✓ Never go into a stranger's house.
- ✓ Walk only in well-lit areas.
- ✓ Travel in groups. Take a few friends or relatives along for the evening.
- ✓ A Halloween party in someone's home is safer than going house-to-house.
- ✓ Place a flashlight in your Jack-o'-Lantern instead of a candle. A flame may cause a fire.
- ✓ Turn your porch light on to give kids extra visibility.
- ✓ If you put make-up on your child's face, take care around the eyes. It may cause irritation.
- ✓ WALK, don't run from house to house.



Even Count Dracula likes apple-bobbing at a Halloween party.

Make your pumpkin carving party a safe one. Supervise it closely and use only special carving tools.





# Book Talk

by Dave Jenkinson



ARE YOU FAMILIAR WITH RON Broda's wonderful paper sculptures? They've illustrated the picture books *Waters*, *The Little Crooked Christmas Tree* and *Have You Seen Bugs?* Now, in *3-D Paper Crafts*, Broda shares the paper sculpting techniques he used to create his marvellous illustrations. Following a list of required "tools" (e.g. pencils, scissors), Broda describes his four basic sculpting techniques, and then provides a simple practice project.

When readers have mastered the fundamental procedures, they can try one of 10 projects which range from a butterfly to the space shuttle. Most projects include a "gift idea." For instance, Broda shows how, with an empty toilet-paper roll, a "totem pole" craft can be easily transformed into a pencil holder. A centre section provides all of the required patterns for tracing. Coloured photographs accompany clear, step-by-step illustrations. Because each project may require up to half a day to complete, leaders should consider both the appropriate age level and available time. (Cubs: Tawny Star A2; Artist Badge 7, 8; Recycling Badge B1, 5; Space Exploration Badge 5. Scouts: Artist Badge)

During Gordon Snow's 35 years in the RCMP, he participated in over 200 searches for lost people. He also served as New Brunswick's RCMP Ground Search and Rescue Coordinator. Following his retirement, he started a company which trains search and rescue volunteers. With this background, Snow is certainly well qualified to have authored a slim, pocket-book sized volume, *Safe And Sound: How Not to Get Lost in the Woods And How to Survive if You Do*. It merits a place in every group's library. The book's

subtitle (*How Not to Get Lost in the Woods and How to Survive If You Do*) accurately reflects the contents. Citing the Scout Motto, "Be Prepared," Snow offers practical advice about what to take with you any time you are going into the woods, even if "only for a moment." Not only does he provide a list of articles for a "ready pack" — a "survival" kit — he also explains why he has selected each item.

## Being prepared for the woods takes forethought.

Being prepared also involves proper clothing and footwear plus map and compass knowledge. Snow addresses all of these. The book's second half discusses how to survive in the woods for short periods, plus advice on how to help a search party find you. A brief concluding section deals with "wood-proofing" children. (Cubs: Green Star A3, 5, 8, 9, B3; Hiking Badge 1, 2, 3, 4; Trailcraft Badge. Scouts: BP Woodsman 4, 5, 8, 9; Bronze Exploring)

Beaver and Cub leaders are always on the lookout for craft ideas. If you haven't seen *Crafty Solutions for Kids*, which appears six times annually and which describes itself as "Canada's only Arts & Crafts IDEA Magazine for Kids," you might want to pick up an issue. The 20+ pages are jam-packed with activities that relate to the season or appropriate holidays and observances.

For example, last year's October/November issue focused on Halloween ideas, such as decorations, party food, face painting and costume ideas. It also looked ahead to Christmas via a "Make Ahead Christmas Gifts" section. A centre pull-out provides a board game, and each issue offers one or more "recycling crafts." Perhaps district budgets could cover an annual subscription for the ADC-Beavers or Cubs who could then use the magazine's contents at sharing sessions. (Cubs: Handicraft & Recycling Badges)

Finally, the author/illustrator team that created *A Pioneer Story: The Daily Life of a Canadian Family in 1840* has produced an excellent companion volume, *Pioneer Crafts*. It offers 15 crafts that were popular with early Canadian settlers. Let everyone in your pack make a "silhouette portrait," then mix them up; now try to match the portraits with their models. The "punched-tin lanterns" could be a camp project, and could then be used to line the path to a campfire (or the KYBO?). Parents would certainly be surprised by a braided rug their son or daughter brought home. (Cubs: Tawny Star A2, 9, B5; Artist 7,8; Handicraft 1,2,5; Naturalist 2; Recycling B1,3) ^

### BOOK DETAILS

R. Broda, *3-D Paper Crafts*, Scholastic, 1997: \$5.99.

*Crafty Solutions For Kids*, One year subscription is \$31.00 for six issues. Order from Crafty Solutions, c/o Chameleon Graphics, R.R. #4, Woodville, ON, K0M 2T0.

B. Greenwood, *Pioneer Crafts*, Illustrated by Heather Collins, Kids Can Press, 1997: \$5.95.

G. Snow, *Safe And Sound: How Not to Get Lost in the Woods And How to Survive if You Do*, Goose Lane Editions, 1997: \$9.95.

# Time to Plan a Sixer and Seconder Rally

by Lynn Belliveau

Last year Moncton District organized a super-successful weekend rally for our Sixers and Seconders. They loved it, learned a lot and caught the Scouting spirit. We wove a theme ("Traditions of Scouting") into the leadership training events by reading some B.-P. quotes that related to our major sessions, which included knots, first aid, creativity, and spying.

The rally began on a Friday night with one of the leaders dressed up as B.-P. reciting dramatically from a speech which encouraged us to "play the game of Scouting." After watching a Hug-a-Tree video, a police dog demonstrated how he tracks lost children. The rest of the evening was devoted to Hug-a-Tree program ideas. (See November's **Leader** for more Hug-a-Tree ideas.)

On Saturday morning we rotated our rally groups through five stations:

- *Cubs are knotty.* This knot-tying session focused on the five main knots in the Cub program. Each child re-



ceived a knot book and had to demonstrate his proficiency at knot-tying.

- *Cubs care and cure.* This first aid session covered basic techniques. We used regular Cubs as "victim" volunteers.
- *Cubs create.* Cubs used recyclable material (like cardboard, yarn, small pencils and clips) to make clipboards for their Sixer books.
- *Cubs are clued in.* This code-breaking session involved having the Cubs decode special messages using the de-coders available in Scout Shops. They found these messages in *The Jungle Book*. One was the secret of the Wolf Cub pack (do your best).

Then they encoded other Scouting phrases.

- *Cubs in charge.* This important session on the duties and responsibilities of Sixers and Seconders topped off the leadership training.

At the end of the rally, each Cub took home a special badge, Moncton pins, sheets listing the duties and responsibilities of a Sixer or Seconder, *B.-P.'s Life in Pictures* booklet, a certificate of participation, *Lost in the Woods* posters and booklets, and a badge/star requirements checklist.

— Lynn Belliveau was an organizer of this successful rally in Moncton, NB.

## Build this Ceremonial Beaver Lodge

by Connie Zammit

At the very start of our Beaver year, and before investing anyone, our White Tail Beavers made a beaver lodge to help new children feel at home in the colony. Here's how they made it.

Starting with chicken wire, the White Tails bent it into shape using coat hangers to stabilize the wire in the middle and on the sides. Next they cov-

ered their lodge with paper mâché, and painted the lodge with "earthy" colours. A discarded blue shower curtain with frogs, lily pads and bullrushes on it added to the realism of our lodge.



Before investiture, we sent home an invitation to all new Beavers asking them to bring a decorated "log" no larger than a paper towel roll, with their name and date of investiture on it. When they arrived to be invested, they tied their logs — some were quite elaborate — onto the lodge with twine. (Before the meeting we had attached 1/2-metre long pieces of twine all over the lodge by poking it through the chicken wire and paper mâché walls.)

By symbolically joining the lodge, all new members felt part of the family. Later on in the year, our lodge made an excellent backdrop for puppet shows and stories. ^

— Connie Zammit is a dam-builder from Whitby, Ontario.

# What Does it Take To Create

words and photos by Paul Ritchi

**T**HERE ARE TIMES ALL PHOTOGRAPHERS GET REALLY EXCITED ABOUT A SPECIAL PHOTO. It happens when the shutter goes "click!", the 'feel' is just perfect, and you just can't wait to get the film back from the one-hour photo lab to see the shot. Then it happens: incredible disappointment.

Somehow that special picture ended up overexposed, out of focus, or totally lacking the vibrancy and excitement you remembered of the moment.

Why is that, you ask?

### Plan Your Photograph

Plan ahead and make a list of all the images you want to capture on film. Your list might include Scouts on a hike, Beavers learning about nature, or Cubs sharing Kub Kar excitement.

Part of the planning process involves considering where you need to position yourself to capture the thrilling picture you're seeking. Pick a clear view of the action — one that avoids the chance of someone suddenly turning a back to your camera or someone stepping right in front of the camera just at the wrong moment.

Do you find your subjects are self-conscious? Do they make unnatural facial expressions or hold unrealistic poses? Try walking around with your camera a lot during your meetings. You don't have to take pictures necessarily, but if youth members get used to seeing you with a camera, they'll start relaxing.



**Yum! Close enough to taste the ice cream!**

### Keep the Image Simple

Get in close to the action. Fill 75 per cent of the viewfinder with your subject matter, such as the little Beaver digging into a large and messy watermelon... m-m-m good! Try to get in close enough that you can almost taste the flavour.

Avoid background clutter, like table legs and cars. A messy background only takes away from your photo. Whenever possible, try to arrange a neutral colour background, such as tree leaves, water, a hillside.

### Choose One Theme

Ask yourself, "What's the theme of this picture?" Natural action of adults or youth doing what they enjoy most will often get you the best results.

*At all cost* avoid saying, "Hey Cubs! Look here and say cheese." This only leads to stiff, posed shots that are dry and lifeless.

Before you squeeze the shutter release button, *really* look through your camera's viewfinder. Don't take the photograph until the image is worth trying to capture. If you had to pay \$10 to click the shutter, would you do it? Is the shot that good? Are you *that* excited about what you've captured in the viewfinder? If you aren't, recompose the shot and ask yourself the question again.

### Get the Right Angle

The best pictures are often taken when you lower yourself to the mid-point of your subject. The view of a little Beaver standing one metre tall is not



# Great Photographs?

very flattering when the image has been taken by a leader who towers over him!

Be daring! Don't be afraid to get down onto your stomach to capture that once-in-a-lifetime image of your Cubs running up a hill where you are awaiting their arrival.

Try this fun exercise: take five pictures in each roll of film from an unusual angle (a) on your knees (b) upside down (c) tilting the camera at a 45° angle (d) at ground (spider) level (e) while moving the camera sideways.

## Camera-Ready

Be prepared from an equipment point of view, too. Here's a checklist.

- Is your camera set up correctly, with the correct camera (or program) options set.
- Is the lens clean? There's little point trying to focus your camera sharply if a smeared fingerprint lies in the middle of your lens.
- Do you have film loaded correctly in the camera, and are the flash batteries fresh? Bring a backup set.
- What about your film speed (ISO setting)? Is it acceptable for the conditions you face. Many photographers use ISO 100 for outdoor use (indoors with a flash), while they use ISO 400 indoors. For proper colour balance, use a flash for indoor shooting. Fluorescent lights will give a greenish-blue tint to your pictures.

## Not Quite Point and Shoot

Here are some shooting tips.

1. *Difficult lighting situations.* Measure the light falling on your photographic subject to make sure you can judge the proper exposure. When taking a light reading using your camera's built-in meter, fill the entire camera frame with the subject (within centimetres), and lock in the reading. Then, step back to re-compose, focus and take the photo.

2. *Shutter speed vs. depth of field.* Consider the optimum camera shutter speed and your depth of field. ("Depth of field" refers to how much of the picture area that is in focus.) If you want to freeze action (e.g. stop a racing toboggan), use shutter speeds greater than 125th of a second. You control depth of field through the aperture setting. The smaller the number (e.g. F 1.8 or F 3.5), the more of the background will be *out of focus*; the larger the number (e.g. F 16), the sharper in focus will be your background.

3. *Auto focus or manual.* When using an "auto focus" camera, be sure your camera is indeed focusing on your subject and not on a background object. If using a "manual focus" camera, make sure your image is 100 per cent sharp. When in doubt, focus on the person's eyes.

## Shoot for Fun!

Beavers, Cubs and Scouts (and their

parents) love to see themselves in action. Go out and shoot your group in all their activities, then share, share, share.

Use the photographs for recruiting drives, photo exhibits, "bring a buddy" nights, and mall displays. Tell the world about your fantastic Scouting experience through pictures! ^

— Paul Ritchie is Akela with Ontario's 7th Thornhill Pack. His photos appear in many Scouting publications, including the *Leader Magazine*, the *Annual Report*, posters and advertisements.

## Shoot for the Big Prizes!

Now that you've been trained by an expert photographer, go after the big prizes offered by our **Scouting Extravaganza!** photo contest. See page 18 for details.



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# SCOUTING EXTRAVAGANZA! PHOTO CONTEST

## TAKE YOUR BEST SHOT!

**S**upply Services and the **Leader** are pleased to announce our fifth **Leader** photo contest!

Send us your best Scouting pictures. All members (youth and adults) may enter as many photographs as they wish.

What does Scouting mean to you? Is it fun? Does it mean exploring Canada's great outdoors? Is it games and crafts? Is it unexpected thrills?

Does Scouting bring images to your mind of good friends gathered around a campfire sipping hot chocolate? Tell us... through pictures.

"How do I enter?" you ask?

It's simple. Read the contest rules. Pick your best shots. Label each with your name and

address, as well as a brief description of the photo. Mail your entries to **the Leader** no later than January 29, 1998. Winners will be announced in the April 1998 issue.

Even if you don't win, you might find your photo illustrating a future **Leader** article on Beaverees, sleepovers, magic shows, detective theme nights, or pirate camps.

Share your photos!

Help us celebrate the fun, adventure and spirit of Scouting. Send us your outstanding photos right now!

## PRIZES! PRIZES! PRIZES!

Supply Services is providing over 45 top-quality prizes.



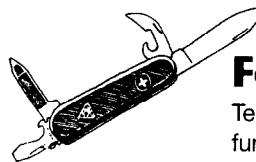
### First Prize

A three-person Premier North Trail Clip Stalker III tent. This square dome, light-weight tent will add greatly to your camping trips. Value: \$160.00



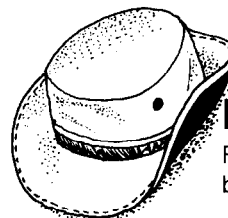
### Second Prize

A spacious Brownsea, 60-litre backpack. Value: \$94.95



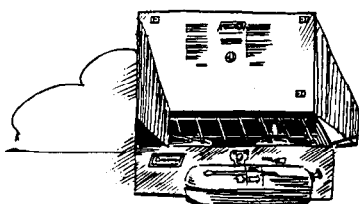
### Fourth Prizes

Ten Scout knives (seven functions). Value: \$24.95



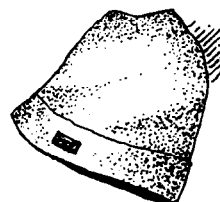
### Fifth Prizes

Fifteen "Scout Lifestyle" bush hats. Value: \$15.88



### Third Prize

A two-burner, propane-powered Coleman stove. Value: \$64.95



### Honourable Mentions

Twenty Scouts Canada winter toques. Value: \$8.95

# Scouting Extravaganza...

## PHOTO CONTEST RULES

1. All Scouts Canada members may submit photographs. Judges will award only one prize per person.
2. **The Leader** will keep all entries submitted. Some may be added to our photo files and appear in future issues of the magazine. Photographers of all published photos will receive appropriate credit. Those wanting photos returned should include a stamped, self-addressed envelope with their submission.
3. Judges will award **one** first prize, **one** second prize, **one** third prize, **ten** fourth prizes, **fifteen** fifth prizes and **twenty** honourable mentions. Judges' decisions are final.
4. Photo subjects must be dressed in either proper and correct uniform, or appropriate activity wear. Judges will also look for safety equipment (e.g. lifejackets, helmets) and clothing suited to the activity shown.
5. The contest accepts black and white or colour prints, or slides.
6. On the back of each print or slide write the photographer's name and address, as well as a brief description of the photograph. This should include the group name and location.
7. **The contest closes on January 29, 1998.** All entries must be postmarked by this date. Mail entries to: *Leader Photo Contest, Box 5112, Stn LCD-Merivale, Ottawa, ON, K2C 3H4.*
8. **The Leader** assumes no responsibility for lost or damaged submissions. Please package entries carefully. When your photos arrive, **the Leader** will send you a letter verifying receipt. ^

### PICTURE TAKING TIPS

1. Avoid stiff, posed pictures.
2. Get as close to your subjects as possible. Fill the frame with faces.
3. Keep the background uncluttered.
4. Action photos of youth doing things (outdoor activities, crafts, games) are always excellent.



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# Fun at the Pond

by Lena Wong

Again it's time for fall activities, and winter is not far away.

You can start the fall/winter festive seasons with Thanksgiving and Halloween. Being October, it's also not too early to start thinking about some early preparations for Hanukkah, Christmas and other festive winter celebrations. Your library will have many ideas and stories you can use.

## THANKSGIVING

This holiday is always associated with delicious food and harvest festivals. Try to serve some different foods when your colony celebrates Thanksgiving. Here are some examples. Serve these goodies with refreshing fruit juices.

Peel and slice kiwi fruit. Peel fresh lychees, remove seed and cut flesh in half (or use canned lychees). Arrange alternating slices of green kiwi and white lychees in a ring on a plate and fill the centre with diced red apples. Mix a little lemon juice into the apple pieces to keep them from turning brown.

Dry some apples by cutting them into slices, rub with lemon and thread on a string. Hang them in a dry, warm place for a week turning daily. If you don't have a place for hanging the

apples, put the slices in a brown paper bag for a week. Shake the bag daily.

Lay out a harvest wreath on a plate. Use green pea pods for the base and decorate with red cherries. Before you eat the wreath, point out to the Beavers that you eat the peas (seeds) inside the pods and discard the shells. With cherries you eat the outside flesh and discard the hard seeds inside.

Popcorn balls are always a favourite. You'll need 250 g miniature marshmallows, 30 mL butter, and 3 L popped corn. Melt the marshmallows and butter in a saucepan over low heat. Put the popcorn in a large bowl and pour the marshmallow mixture over it; stir to coat. Form spoonfuls of the mixture into balls, but grease your hands first.

## Seasonal Crafts

Make a Thanksgiving mural using some of the objects you picked up on rambles through the bush last month. If you made up a trip log, use your notes to remind the colony of the many signs of fall you saw. Get the Beavers to draw and colour trees, leaves, migrating birds and other impressions on a large sheet of paper. Assign each Beaver a specific area of the paper, giving free rein to create a colourful mural for the meeting room wall.

Did you pick up some art treasures outdoors, as suggested in the August/September issue? If so, use them to make gifts and mementoes for your Beavers to present to parents and friends. You might even keep them for Christmas gifts.

Paper weights are fun and easy to make. Give your Beavers a lump of uncooked salt dough. (See last month's *Fun at the Pond* for a recipe.) Let them shape the dough as they wish. Decorate with snail shells, nuts, small stones and



other usable objects. Allow the masterpieces to dry thoroughly before the children take them home.

If you picked up some fairly large stones, use these as bases for your paper weights. Paint the stones in bright colours or decorate them with stickers.

Use pine cones to make fascinating creatures. Stick on googly eyes and bits of coloured wool for hair. Make a stand by putting the creature in a small blob of colourful play dough or salt dough.

## **HALLOWEEN**

Halloween is a great time to make masks for indoor parties. Combine these with hats and easy-to-make costumes to generate more excitement.

### *Masks*

For this simple half mask, Beavers will need a rectangle of bristol board sized to their faces. Measure from a point half-way between the right eye and ear to the same point on the left. Then measure from nose to top of head. Leave extra room on top if you're making animal masks, so you'll have room to cut ears.

Make a fancy, Venetian-style mask by drawing two overlapping ovals on the back of the bristol board and cutting around the connected ovals. An adult should place the mask over each Beaver's face to find out where the eyes should be. Sketch in the eye holes, cut them out, then tape a long drinking straw or thin dowel to one side of the mask. Decorate the outside with stickers, sequins, fancy buttons and other interesting bits and pieces. Beavers can hold the mask in front of their faces using the straw or dowel.



Make an animal mask by using the same basic mask form, but adding ears at the top. Draw the animal's facial features and tie an elastic band to either side of the mask so a child can wear it.

### *Hats*

Hats are easy to make. Measure a strip of bristol board about 8 cm wide around the Beaver's head and cut it long enough to allow an overlapping area for taping. Cut the shape of your hat from appropriately-coloured bristol board (front and back) and glue them to the band to complete the pattern. A pirate hat might look like the illustration. Why not try a pirate theme? Just cut a black triangle large enough to fit over an eye, then tie an elastic to either side so your children can wear it around their heads.



### *Mobile*

Use a wire hanger to make the basic structure. Draw, cut out and decorate Halloween theme objects and tie them to the hanger. For extra interest you might tie some of the objects together to make a long string of whatever goes bump in the night. Your group could make similar mobiles with a Thanksgiving theme.

## **GAME TIME**

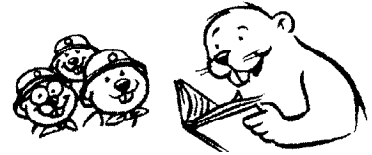
Here are some energy burn-off activities to keep your Beavers manageable during fall and early winter.

Set up seven stations. Some of the activities will require running space, so place the stations far enough from walls or nearby trees. Ideally, you would have two running tracks. Do the following exercises at each station.

1. Jog three laps around a track.
2. Crab walk a small lap around the station.
3. Make arm circles, five each side.
4. Walk a small lap around the station holding the back of thighs.
5. Run backwards, one lap around the room.
6. Hop on right foot, one small lap around the station.
7. Hop on left foot, one small lap around the station.

### *Chuck Wagon Relay*

Split the colony into teams of two. Give each team a sack, towel or small blanket and a skipping rope. One Beaver sits on the towel and holds onto one end of the skipping rope, while the other Beaver pulls the partner down the length of a room. At the end, they switch positions and come back.



## **STORY TIME**

Let your Beavers tell the weekly story occasionally. Use different methods; Beavers might share stories they have been told by parents or grandparents. This provides an interesting way of sharing stories from different cultures if you have a multicultural colony. You might even make a story up as you go along. How? Seat your Beavers in a circle and get a leader to start the story with the first sentence. Go around the circle letting each child add a sentence. You'll end up with a pretty funny yarn. Tape-record the activity and play the story back to the Beavers so they can hear the whole tale.

## **SINGING IN ROUNDS**

This is a fun way of singing an old song. Pick short songs that your Beavers know well. Singing in rounds means that one person starts singing the first line and carries on singing. The next person starts the first line when the first person starts the second, and so on. At the end you have quite a chorus going.

Here are a couple of popular children's songs suitable for this activity.

Row, row, row your boat  
Gently down the stream.  
Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily  
Life is but a dream.

Are you sleeping? Are you sleeping?  
Brother John, Brother John,  
Morning bells are ringing,  
morning bells are ringing.  
Ding dang dong! Ding dang dong!

If your Beavers know the words to Frère Jacques in French, encourage them to sing it.

October is a beautiful month with many program opportunities. Enjoy it to the fullest.

# Choose the Right Pack for Your Back

by Ross Francis

**W**HY IS IT THAT REGARDLESS HOW BIG a backpack you buy, it always gets filled to capacity? It all comes down to 'selection.'

If you start with an overnight trip and a huge pack, you're tempted to fill the huge space with "nice to have items" simply because you have so much room. If you start with a smaller pack for the same overnight trip, you'll be a little more careful selecting items. Here's the key: find one pack that accommodates all the essentials for most trips. This means your pack should be suitable for lightweight, overnight summer trips, but also have expansion capability to accommodate bulkier items for extended trips.

Finding the right pack for a Cub or Scout is an even greater challenge than for adults. The child will need basically the same gear as the adult, but may not be physically strong enough, or large enough, to carry the load.

**"Move along. Let's break it up please."**

Here's one way to deal with this problem. Break your group into smaller groups of three or four people. Now the common equipment (e.g. tents, stoves, pots) and food can be evenly distributed within the smaller group.

Keep in mind that backpackers should carry no more than 25-33 per cent of their body weight. This may mean that smaller hikers weighing 27-30 kg may not be able to carry all their own gear. Perhaps they could be placed in a group with larger kids who can carry a little bit more. This will help build the team and encourage them to work together as a unit.

Bigger is not necessarily better when it comes to packs. This is a significant message to stress with parents and youth. Instead, find a pack that fits properly, yet will accommodate all the equipment required for your outings.

### Before Setting Out

So you plan to enjoy some camping trips this year. Great. Before rushing out to buy a pack, identify your real needs. Start by asking these questions:

## Notice of Annual Meeting Boy Scouts of Canada

Saturday,  
November 22, 1997  
4:45 p.m.  
Citadel Inn,  
Ottawa, Ontario

### Purpose:

- (1) Consider the annual report
- (2) Consider the annual financial statements and auditor's report
- (3) Elect officers, members, honorary members, committee chairpersons, and others of National Council
- (4) Appoint the auditor, who shall be a chartered accountant



Photo: Wayne Bennett

**Make sure you know how to properly pack your pack. This can transform a terrific experience into a nightmare for your back.**

- *When* will you use the pack? Summer, winter or year-round?
- *How often* will you use it? Will the group ever use the pack again or is this simply a one-shot adventure?
- *What* will it be used for? Simple backpacking, off-trail use, rock-hopping across streams, cross-country skiing, or week-long canoe trips?
- *How much* are you willing to spend?

Now that you have a better idea of your needs, it's time to find a reputable camping store with trained personnel. Your professional Supply Services staff have a number of backpacks that are excellent for Scouting trips; they'll help answer your outdoor questions.

Don't be dazzled by the vast array of backpack shapes, sizes and colours. If it doesn't feel good when it's fully loaded and fitted, it's not much good.

Try different packs on, and walk around the store. Many Scout Shops have various sizes of sand bags and weights that you can put in the pack to get an accurate feel for how the pack fits when fully loaded.

#### Visibly the Best Pack

Some packs may have visible or external frames while others don't appear to have any frame at all. You'll also notice manufacturer's tags that show their recommended carrying capacities and the size of the torso adjustment for the pack.

#### External Frame Packs

Some packs actually have a visible, metal, plastic or nylon frame that will help carry large, heavy loads. The frame usually extends above the wearer's head, and may have a swing-out shelf at the bottom. This allows you to fill the pack, then tie larger, bulkier items to the frame.

***If it doesn't feel good when it's fully loaded and fitted, it's not much good.***

External frame packs ride higher on the hiker's body and usually leave space between the wearer's back and the pack itself. This means the hiker tends to feel "top heavy" which may make hiking on rough trails (or when skiing or bushwhacking) more difficult. Having space between the pack and your back allows for some ventilation; it also prevents objects in the pack from poking into your soft back.

If the frame extends above your head, see if the frame can be adjusted down. If it can't, the pack could catch on a branch and cause an accident. Make sure the frame isn't in a position that will constantly bang into your head. Some external frame packs are more difficult to fit into the trunk of a car and may scratch the bottom of a canoe on trips.

Because the frame is exposed, it may be more prone to damage, while tying objects onto it may also result in damage. But one of these packs might be better for youth who have a huge sleeping bag that may not fit into the large compartment of an internal frame pack. External frame packs usually have four or more outside pockets — great for organizing smaller objects and items that you may want to get at quickly.



Photo: Alan Macartney

*Smaller packs mean you may have to carry some equipment on the outside. Will tent poles snag branches?*

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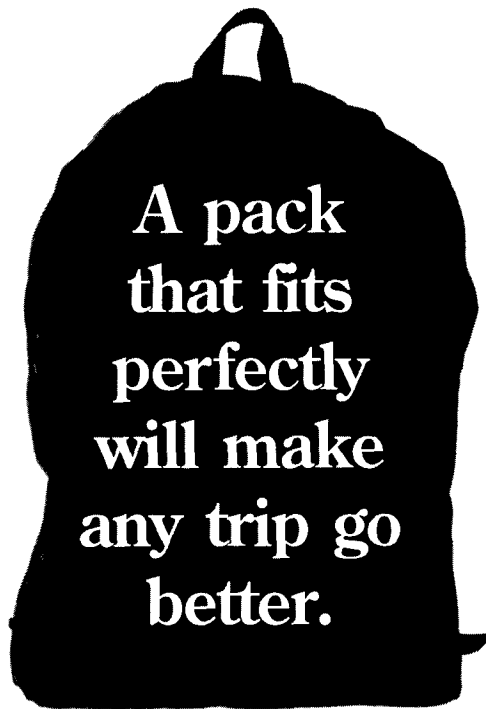
### Internal Frame Packs

An internal frame pack has a frame concealed within its design. Most of these packs use two parallel aluminum stays that can be removed and custom-fitted to meet the curve of the wearer's back.

Internal frame packs tend to allow for more adjustments, therefore provide a better, more comfortable fit. These packs ride lower and closer to the wearer's back, giving better balance and allowing better upper body movement. The pack does, however, hug the wearer's back; this reduces ventilation.

Internal frame packs keep all the gear inside and protected. This means it is more streamlined and is less likely to snag on trees. It also will fit better into car trunks.

A person using the pack for weekend overnight outings will probably need one capable of carrying 50-65 litres. If you plan winter or extended trips, you might even need a pack with a volume of 70 litres or more.



### A Perfect Fit

To find the right size with an external frame pack, put the pack on your back and fasten the hip belt so it fits snugly just above your hipbone. Now check the shoulder straps. They should come straight off the shoulder or lie slightly below, causing them to go up before crossing the shoulder. Make the necessary adjustments to make sure the pack fits well. Once you have this done you can begin fine-tuning the adjustment with the hip and shoulder straps.

When you get fitted for an internal frame pack, start by measuring your torso. Stand straight, and place your hands on your hips with your thumbs pointing towards the centre of your back. Measure from the imaginary line where the thumbs would meet, to the bottom of your neck where you feel the bump of your spine. This gives you the measurement of your

torso. Now you can look for a pack that includes your measurement and also allows room for some growth. Adjust the shoulder straps by sliding the harness up or down the track or by threading the straps through the ladder system on the back of the pack. Remove the stays, bend them to fit the curve of your back, then replace. Now put the pack on your back and make the fine-tuning adjustments with the hip and shoulder straps.

### One Last Word...

Try loading up both pack types to see which is most comfortable. Whichever style you choose, make sure the hip belt and shoulder straps fit comfortably and are well padded.

Your pack should also feature a sternum strap which is adjustable up and down. When fastened, this strap brings the shoulder straps inward to take the strain off your shoulders.

Many hikers like a pack with compression straps. These straps usually run from the front to the back, and from side to side. When tightened, they will compress your gear into a smaller bundle and keep things from shifting around inside.

### Hit the Trail!

Before heading out on a wilderness trail many kilometres from civilization, always test a brand new pack out on a day outing — just to make sure everything is working well. You don't want stitching that suddenly comes loose to wreck your extended trip.

A pack that fits perfectly will make any trip go better. At the end of a day you'll feel wonderful, enjoy the sunsets more, and avoid the "whose idea was this anyway" syndrome.

Happy hiking! \

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# The Service Scouter = Customer Service Representative

by Rob Stewart

Service Scouters are actually Scouts Canada's "customer service representatives."

They are responsible for making service calls to our front line customers (youth and leaders) to ensure they have what they need to have a fun, educational and challenging experience.

Consider the following excerpt from the *Pro Speak* newsletter, published for Boy Scouts of America executive staff. The section entitled "Exceptional Customer Service—Lessons from Corporate America" has been edited to suit our Canadian Movement.

Corporate America has determined that **the cost of retaining a customer is only about 20 percent of the cost of developing a new customer.** Service Scouters take note: the time it takes to help solve a major section problem is only a fraction of the time it takes to organize a new section.

Exceptional customer service has three important qualities.

1. Exceed expectations rather than just barely satisfy them.
2. Provide caring service, not just competent service. Service Scouters must truly care about their sections. They must believe in section people, and have solid relationships with their assigned groups or sections.
3. Provide customers with service *now*, not just when it's convenient. If you don't, you might not get a second chance to help or, worse, there might not be a section left to help.

Research has also shown customers want you to:

- *Listen.* This shows respect and concern.
- *Take responsibility* to walk them through a problem to a solution.
- *Pay attention to details.*

## The Service Call

If the section has no problems, the visit becomes a friendly chat which

continues to build a relationship between the Service Scouter and the section Scouter. It's a chance to make sure leaders are aware of new developments within the district or region. Scouters can be brought up to date on upcoming training events, workshops, conferences, or district events. Discussions can also identify training needs which will help the continued delivery of quality programs for youth.

Sometimes Service Scouters are met by a Scouter who is having trouble delivering the program. What can you do? Often, more training will help, but that may not solve the immediate problem.

Ask yourself: What would a sales or service representative do if faced with a customer who was struggling with the product? One of the first things she would do is make sure the individual had all the up-to-date manuals and instructional guides related to the product.

## We're Prepared!

Do we have manuals and instructional guides?

You bet we do!

There are lots of resources for each of the sections, and it's important for Service Scouters to know about the variety of these materials. Outstanding JUMPSTART packages are now available for Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. You've got to try them out to believe how excellent they are. Many other resources are available (in addition to the section leaders' handbooks) which will help Scouters plan and deliver a great program.

Each year Scouting produces a list of resources for each section. This list describes what leaders should have if they are new to the section, and other material for ongoing support. Contact your council office for an updated copy.

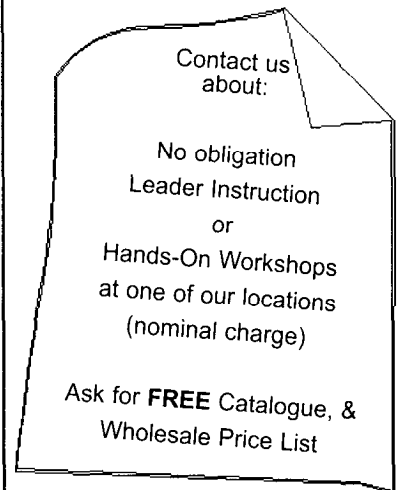
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# Clean Up Your Act (And Home)

by Ian Mitchell

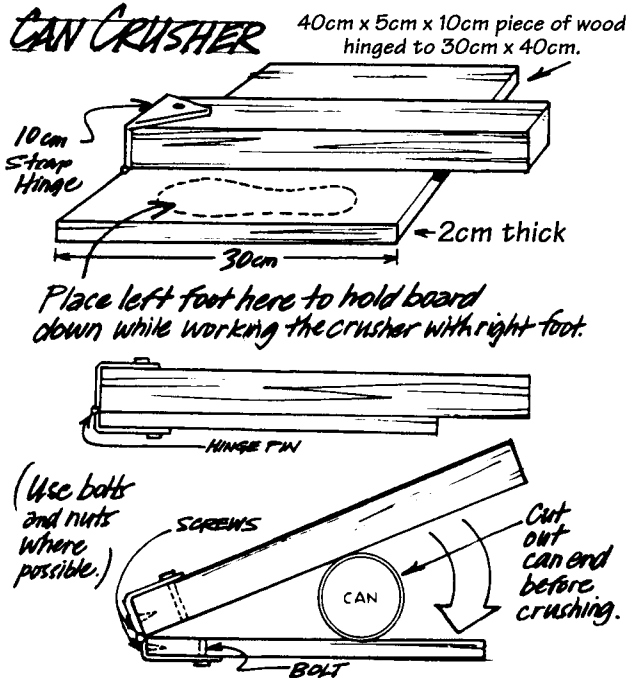
**Y**OUTH ARE VERY INTERESTED IN environmental issues. Recycling and a clean environment are very important for them.

When I took a look at what my family does to "do our part", I discovered that the adults did most of the activities; all our three children did was remind us about environmental responsibilities and 'monitored' (parental) our track record.

After hearing several excuses ("The cans hurt my feet when I stand on them," — sometimes called "the Can Caper" — or "I didn't know I missed the newspaper pile when I tossed them," — sometimes called "the Mess Manoeuvre"), I realized that my wife and I *still* did most of the work. It was time to find a way to actively involve everyone. Here are some 'crafty' ideas you can try. They breathed new recycle meaning into our home.

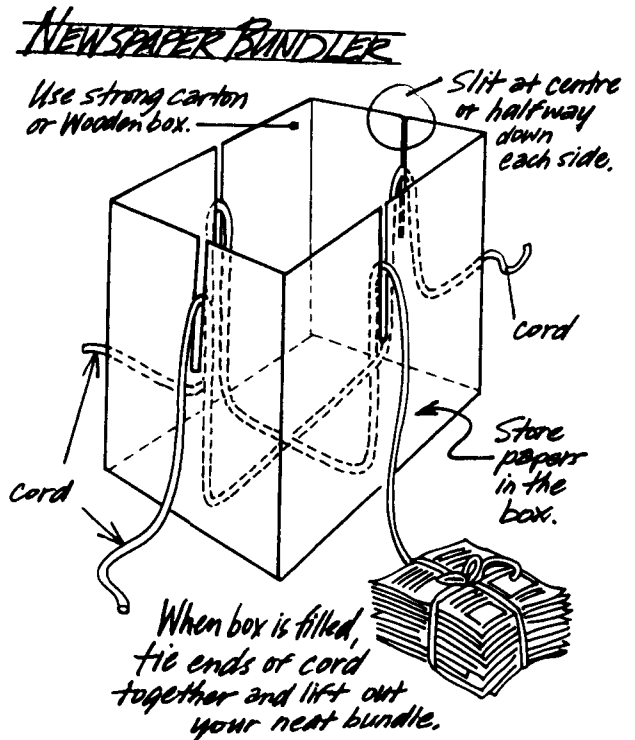
## The Adapted Can Caper

This simple piece of machinery makes can crushing a breeze. Start by cutting out both ends of the cans before crushing; now even your family lightweights won't have an excuse!



## The Mess Manoeuvre

By stacking papers into this box (preset with string), the papers stay tidy until it's time to bundle them off to the curb.

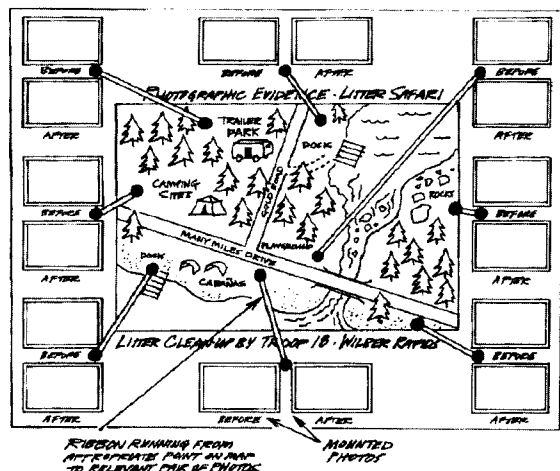


## LITTER SAFARI

**L**ooking for a great teambuilder activity to start your year off? Here's an idea that will help your patrols get to know each other better, and involve them in an environmental community project.

Get each patrol to visit a place with litter scattered all over. It could be a park, a playground, the church grounds, or a beach. Take a photo of the spot. Now ask the patrol to clean up this area. Take a second photo of the area once you've cleaned it.

Now get each patrol to place their "before and after" pictures on the outside edge of a map of your area, and stretch ribbons from the pictures to the map locations. (See diagram) It makes a great display.



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## CROSS-COUNTRY PHOTOS

### *Invested by the President*



**W**earing a bright smile, Beth-Anne McNamara (Rainbow) was invested several months ago by Scouts Canada's President, David Rattray. Beth-Anne works with the 3rd Ottawa Beaver Colony, ON. Now the real fun begins!

### **Ultimate Challenge**

"The only easy day was yesterday." That was the common phrase used by Venturers from the Lakeview Company, AB, when they took part in a two-week wilderness course at Camp Impeesa, a 140-hectare Rocky Mountain wilderness resource centre in southern Alberta. The adventure included hiking, climbing, mountain biking, canoeing, wind surfing, caving, and much more. Here, three Venturers are taking a short break during a trip following a rocky ridge line.

Photo: Dave Armstrong



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### Beachcombing Beavers

When Andrew Taylor, Scott Smith, Brian Walsh and Kyle Maxwell of the 25th Assumption Colony in Saint John, NB, went for a walk along the seashore, they found this crab scurrying around the rocks. They also found eels, shrimps and other marine life. Shortly after making their discoveries, they gathered around a campfire and enjoyed songs, hot dogs and marshmallows.



### Work Out Your Frustrations

This might look like a creative way for two leaders to resolve their differences, but Harry Ho and Doug Bawtinehman climbed up on the bench with padded battering rams during a gladiator theme night. Both come from the 2nd Milliken Mills Group, ON. Photo: Tina Enrolino



A blackened hearth stone, rubble from an old chimney, a huge spruce tree. These were all clues that Scouts from the 8th Whitehorse Troop used to track down a site from the first European settlement in the Yukon. Hudson Bay Company traders canoed down the Pelly River in 1848 and established a trading post where it met the Yukon River. Forty-five years later Fort Selkirk was being groomed to become the future Yukon Territorial capital city when the Klondike Gold Rush wiped away its hopes for glory. Dawson City became the capital; this was later changed to Whitehorse. Finding the original 1848 outpost site made an interesting activity. Photo: Michael Dougherty

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# Orientation and Probation for New Members

by Bryon Milliere

**W**hat were your first three months like as a volunteer in Scouting?

Who helped you understand your role, and who provided guidance along the way? Were you left to fend for yourself, or did several people give guidance, direction, coaching and feedback?

Whatever your current role, you can help introduce new recruits to the Movement. This principle is central to Scouting's Volunteer Recruitment and Development strategy; it's also an important step in volunteer screening.

Too often, organizations (including Scouting groups) will approach prospective volunteers and hope they will be suitable. In other cases the recruiter hopes that once the new person has received training the volunteer will act appropriately. This strategy is both dangerous and counterproductive.

## Orientation

An application, an interview and reference checks, followed by an orientation and probation period: these are ways Scouting hopes to improve our ability to recruit outstanding volunteers. Many councils have orientation activities or events called "Introduction to Scouting Workshops," "Introductory In-

terviews" or "Gateways". These help introduce new members to topics, structures and roles that they will need to understand. The informal meetings and conversations that they have with their new peers, Service Scouters, group committee, parents and trainers also play a significant preparation role.

Plan for these opportunities, perhaps following your weekly meetings, after the kids have gone to sleep at camp, or while they are off doing an activity with other volunteers. By scheduling time to meet informally, you'll be able to really coach and help new members. Your positive feedback on their commitment and contribution will encourage them to continue to learn more and improve.

## Probation

Every volunteer's first three months consists of a trial period. The new Scouter has a chance to try out leadership under the supervision and guidance of the group committee, experienced Scouters, or the service team. For most volunteers this is a time of confirming a good choice, and of personal growth. A few will chose to withdraw because,

- they're way too busy,
- they realize that sleeping on the ground is not for them,
- they lack patience when dealing with 20 Cub-aged children.

Unfortunately, you'll have to tell some volunteers that they're a poor match for the role. In this case you'll either have to find a new task for them or let them go. This may be an unpleasant — although necessary — task. Allowing these individuals to remain in an inappropriate job can have disastrous consequences.

Be honest about the volunteer in question. What are the issues? Such concerns as poor approaches to discipline may be confronted a few times to encourage correction, but may be unresolvable if the individual is unable or unwilling to adjust his or her approach.

## Conclusion

Be fair, be honest and be respectful when ending a probation period. Your meeting with the new volunteer should provide some valuable feedback on how they have done so far. It should either encourage them as they continue in Scouting, or help them understand why their attitudes, skills and knowledge didn't match the role. Don't give the impression you are rejecting the whole person. They might be perfect for another Scouting task.

With a little planning and forethought, you can help make the first three months in Scouting a great experience for new volunteers. A

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# Where Scout Shops Stand

by Ben Kruser

"Prices are too high for outdoor gear and other program-related products!"

That's a criticism some people hurl at Scout Shops. Today, price is clearly at the top of consumers' lists. Big chain stores boast "everyday low prices", and their sales never seem to end. Stores can compete for business in many ways: low price, product quality, time to market for new merchandise, low production cost, and unique services. In Scouting, we have developed our own cultural attitude towards costs. This attitude sometimes runs contrary to expectations.

Scout Shops offer quality first, at a reasonable price. But the difficulty of competing on a quality base is that (a) outstanding products cost more than trash, and (b) buyers need to be able to recognize differences between the two. The difference between a great and an inferior house is sometimes very obvious. But can you identify significant variations between a tent priced at \$150 and another priced at \$300? Sometimes it's not readily apparent.

A recent marketing survey found that the general public thinks Scout Shops offer higher than average quality products. Our name and outdoor reputation conveys the message at Scouting youth carry reliable equipment. Most Scout shops don't have a lot of room for a wide range of equipment, but what they do carry is *very* dependable. People usually believe the old saying, "If you can't trust Scouts, who can you trust?"

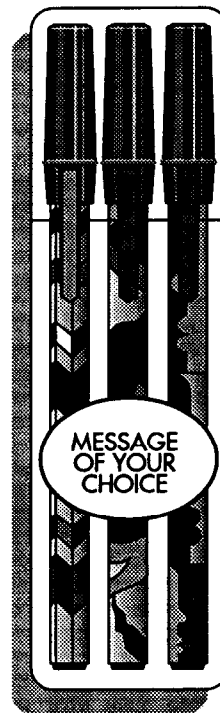
When I hear someone say Scout Shop prices are too high because a product can be bought elsewhere for less, here's the first question I ask: "Is it the exact same brand, and model, and does it offer identical features?" We need to compare apples to apples.

Customers need to ask, "What makes this tent (or backpack or stove or water filter) more expensive than a cheaper model?" Scout Shop staff can often point out subtle, but critical, differences. These might include triple stitching instead of single stitching, special reinforcements, quality of fabric, zipper and coatings, even a better size of bug mesh.

Manufacturers aren't fools. They're not going to sell a premium product for less than it costs to make it. If you don't pay much for a product, someone has cut a lot of corners. Our Scout Shop staff, however, knows what features you need to have the best experience. Most Shops target the mid-range family camper, and so prices will be above some high volume competitors because these customers need a better quality product.

## You Get What You Pay For

We want you to be happy with your outdoor gear so you don't experience equipment failure in the middle of a dark and stormy night. You can buy shoddy, disposable camping equipment anywhere. But if you want excellent, long-lasting equipment that will make your outdoor adventure worry-free, visit your local Scout Shop. Quality is always worth it! \



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# How to Become an Effective "Head" Hunter

by Ian Mitchell

**C**AMPING, FUNDRAISING, social activities and service projects. These are a few activities that your Venturer company will be involved in this year. Your role is to guide your Venturers through the activities they choose, allowing them to do as much of the planning and executing as possible. So where do you start?

The Venturer company structure is designed to have a youth at the helm — a president who will guide the group along the way. If you help your Venturers choose the right youth member as their president early enough, your job will become much less stressful.

But how do you lead your Venturers to make a good choice?

You could simply provide a session describing what makes a good leader. However, I'm not convinced this will hold your Venturers' interest. You could just pull a name from a hat — NOT! So what then? Here's another method that may solve your problems.

## How to Choose Your Leader

1. Begin by asking your Venturers to write their own definition of leadership. (Don't let this drag on for long.)
2. Ask members of your group to read their definitions aloud.

3. Combine the definitions into one, and place it where all can see (e.g. blackboard).
4. From the group's definition, make a list (brainstorming) of all the qualities that make a good leader. Try to find a quality for each letter in the word "leadership." Post this where all can see.

Now, with this exercise fresh in their minds, your Venturers are ready to elect members to oversee the group. This activity doesn't have to take place in a classroom. Try it at a campfire or perhaps during a rest break on your first fall hike. Upon completion, the company will have satisfied one of the Blue and Gold Award requirements.

## Leadership Qualities

For the position of president, or for any leadership role, here are a few qualities that some Venturer-aged youth have identified as important for a leader:

- honesty
- competence
- ability to plan ahead
- inspiration
- intelligence
- fair-mindedness
- broad-mindedness
- straightforwardness
- imagination
- dependability

- responsibility
- understanding skills
- good listening skills
- organization
- level-headedness.

It's impossible to find a single person who possesses all these qualities, but with a list like this your group should be able to identify a person who best fits the bill. With any luck at all they will conclude that the job is not one that is necessarily driven by popularity, but rather by a set of important skills.

## Developing Leadership Qualities

As an advisor, your role involves developing leadership qualities in each member. Take every opportunity to point out these qualities when they are demonstrated, emphasizing the decision-making processes rather than the results. Because youth will be at different stages in their development, start some off slowly by first making them part of a team.

The "Leadership" chapter in *The Venturer Handbook* provides a good introduction to the subject. Add to this some formal training, SIT courses, and some initiative activities, Cowstails and Cobras or the Teambuilding JUMPSTART package, and all your youth will be on their way.

Good luck! ^



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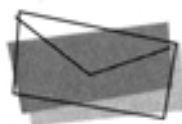
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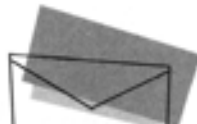
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# Pen Friends



More and more Scouting youth are using the Internet and e-mail to keep in contact with pen pals. Here are several on-line members you might want to write to. We also include a number of traditional (pen and ink) addresses.

## Canada

I'm a Cub in Penticton, BC. I come from a Scouting family (my dad is a Cub leader). I'd like a Canadian e-mail pen pal. Write to me at reidfamily@img.net.

Keven Kanten (Kirk 56th Beaver Colony, Edmonton Alberta), has a homepage that links Beaver colonies, Cub packs and other Scouting groups. It helps leaders share ideas, program activities and pen pal information. Keven's e-mail address is: kanten@compusmart.ab.ca. His site is found at: www.compusmart.ab.ca/kanten/56beaver.html

## Holland

De Reijn is a twenty-year-old Scout living near Amsterdam. She has been involved in Scouting for 14 years, and is a Beaver leader. She would like to contact Canadian Venturers and Rovers to learn about our country, practice writing English, and exchange program ideas. Her e-mail address is: 210686@hh2.hsholland.nl.

## — TRADITIONAL 'PEN' PALS —

## Canada

I'm a new Scout leader who wants to write to experienced leaders about program ideas. My address: Jim Kirinka, 1455 Nation Cres., Prince George, BC, V2M 4E3.

## Russia

The pen pal organization SAPE (formerly "The Soviet-American Penfriend Exchange"), is looking for people to write to more than 100,000 pen pals in the former Soviet Union. SAPE has matched more than 30,000 people with a pen pal since 1989. These pen pals can only correspond via pen and paper. If you're a youth or adult, aged 8-60, and can write in English, send us a self-addressed envelope + 1 international reply coupon (available at any post office in the world) to find out more information. Address the envelope to: SAPE, P.O. Box 319, Monroe, CT, 06468-0319, U.S.A.

## United States

Art Schoenman is a Cub leader with Pack 66 in Colorado whose Cubs want to find out more about Canada. His address: 2244 Vivian St., Longmont, Colorado, 80501, USA.

## Britain

Joan, Brian and son (Robert, 15) Goddard, a Scouting family in Britain, would like to hear from Scout and Beaver leaders in Canada. Write to them at 58 Butterwick Drive, Beaumont Leys, Leicester, LE4 04L, Great Britain. ^

### 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.

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Lethbridge 24th Scouts,  
Lethbridge, AB  
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# "I've Got to Tell My Friends!"

by Ross Francis

**W**hen we discover a "good thing" our normal reaction is to tell others so we can share the fun or the benefit.

Young people practise this continually; when they find something they enjoy, they naturally tell their friends. It's important for them to be with their buddies. Let's encourage this as much as possible.

"Bring a buddy" events are a terrific way to encourage your Beavers or Cubs to share their "good thing" with friends. You could plan it as,

- a special evening,
- an all day event,
- even a weekend campout or sleepover.

Run the idea by your members. They'd probably enjoy having the chance to bring a friend along for an evening or an outing.

Once you've decided to hold the event, ask your Beavers or Cubs what they enjoy most about the program and what

they think their friends would like to do. Remember: their buddies may not be familiar with Scouting traditions, names, signs and all the things we do in our regular programs. To help them feel welcome, allow time for one of their peers to explain what they are about to experience. By involving a Beaver or Cub in these explanations, you will be building both their self-esteem and credibility with their friends. When planning the crafts, games and activities try to find ones that will allow regular members to participate with their invited friends. This will help the guests feel part of the group, and their Scouting friend can explain what is happening as they go.

Try to find new crafts, games, hikes, tours and activities that your group has not tried before — even better if it involves learning or developing a new skill or making something that they can take home to show their family.

This event may require some additional help. Ask your group committee to identify and recruit resource people. Why not encourage them to get involved themselves?

Let your kids help plan and prepare for the event as much as possible. They could make decorations, prepare the games or activities, make public notices and signs, and perhaps even create personal invitations to give out. Ask your Beavers or Cubs to deliver the invitations and follow up with a response so you know how many to expect. By directly involving the youth, they will be prouder and more excited to invite their friends to show them what they've done.

You may also want to invite parents as well. Most would love to take part in a fun program where they can participate with their child while they develop new skills and interests.


A positive first impression for friends and parents is extremely important. Use this event to show them how much fun everyone — youth and leaders — experience each night.

## Snack and Chat Time

No "bring a buddy" night would be complete without delicious food. Have lots of their favourite treats on hand, and give them plenty of time to enjoy it. Plan extra time for parents to ask questions about the program and registration.

You can hold "bring a buddy" events at any time of year, but usually they work best shortly after fall registration. They often result in more new youth and adults for your program.

Every child wishing to join Scouting should have the chance. This is extremely important, even if it means forming a new section. We aren't meeting youthful needs if we put young people on a waiting list when they really wanted to experience the fun of Scouting with their friends.

What will a "bring a buddy" night do for your program? It might just set it on fire! 

*\*Note\* Yes! Scouts Canada's insurance does cover friends and parents who are trying out your Scouting program.*

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## SCOUTER'S 5

### I Am Special

- Here's a fun song that helps build self-esteem. Beavers will love it. How can your Cubs adapt it for their meetings?

I am special  
You are too  
 Whoever has two hands  
Stand up too.

- I am special  
You are too  
Whoever has blue eyes  
Stand up too.

I am special  
You are too  
Whoever has a cuddly pet  
Stand up too.

I am special  
You are too  
Whoever has a Beaver tail  
Stand up too.

- I am special  
You are too  
Whoever has \_\_\_\_\_  
Stand up too.

### Hugging Is Healthy

We all need positive and healthy encouragement. Here's a poem to consider at a Woodbadge course.

- Why not read it to your Scouts and Venturers, then get them to discuss how they can apply it in their lives?

Scouter's 5 Minutes, p.787

Oct. '97

## RECIPES

- A** Halloween party has to have great food. Here are some very nutritious recipes that will turn your gathering into a ghoulish success. (From Public Health Nutritionists in Georgian Bay Region.)

### Witches' Brew

- Bubble, bubble, toil and trouble. Stir this brew up on the double!

- Large can (30 oz) unsweetened pineapple juice
- Medium-sized can (15 oz) apricot nectar
- 1 can frozen lemonade diluted with 3 cans of water
- 1 large bottle soda water
- Juice of 2 oranges.

Mix these ingredients together in a well cleaned out pumpkin as your punch bowl.

### White With Fright Dip

Gather the following ingredients.

- 2 - 14 oz cans of chick peas
- Juice of 2 lemons
- 1/2 cup tahini
- 3 tbsp olive oil
- 1 crushed garlic clove (optional)
- pepper

Place the chick peas in a blender and add lemon juice and a little water, if necessary. Blend until smooth.

- Add remaining ingredients, seasoning to taste. Serve with pita bread or raw veggies.

Recipes, p.593

Oct. '97

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## Cheese Ghosts and Black Bread Bats

This snack will be a ghastly success with your Beavers, Cubs or Scouts. You will need:

- 1-2 oz sliced cheese per child
- 1-2 slices of bread (use dark rye, pumpernickel or whole wheat)
- cookie cutters in the shape of bats, ghosts or pumpkins.

Place the cheese and bread slices on a cutting board. Use cookie cutters to cut Halloween shapes, and then arrange them on a platter. Your little goblins will gladly lend a helping hand with this recipe.



Recipes, p.594

Hugging is healthy.  
 It helps the body's immune system.  
 It cures depression.  
 It reduces stress.  
 It induces sleep.  
 It's invigorating.  
 It's rejuvenating.  
 It has no unpleasant side effects.  
 Hugging is nothing less than a miracle drug.

Hugging is all-natural.  
 It is organic.  
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 And 100 per cent wholesome.  
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When would a hug be appropriate to give a friend or relative? When is it *not* appropriate? Older people, like grandparents, are often starved for affection. Why not hug them every time you visit? Can hugging tie into our Scouting goals?  
 — *From Hazel Hallgren, Red Deer, AB.*

### Wisdom from B.-P.

"Scouting can hold out to the Cub the means of making his life something better than a mere dreary existence. It can give him healthy occupation and happiness — first by providing lots of outdoor activities, games, hiking, camping, boating, etc. for health and adventure, and secondly, by giving hobbies and handicrafts to develop technical skill for employment, or for occupying leisure time usefully."



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# State Secrets

I disagree with Andrew Robertson's letter in the May issue where he said, "don't get too involved in local Scouting training" because "it takes too much time and offers little."

I've been a Cub and Scout leader, as well as a Venturer advisor and a trainer. Novice and experienced Scouters have much to learn from training sessions. What's more, for the instructors themselves the teaching helps develop them personally and professionally. Training makes sure all participants, including the instructors, keep current with the latest youth trends. That makes for better weekly meetings.

I encourage everyone to get more training. Sure, it takes time, but you'll learn new games, crafts, activities and skits — things that will add to everyone's enjoyment.

— *Andy Ackerman, Regional Commissioner, Northern Region, British Columbia/Yukon.*

## More State Secret Comments

Andrew Robertson's letter in the May issue had many good ideas, but I take exception to two of his points: training and the usefulness of berets.

**Training.** Scouter Robertson said that training in his area wasn't very useful. When I started as a Cub leader, I felt unsure of myself delivering the program in front of youth. It wasn't long before I took my Woodbadge 1. The benefits were many and immediate. Soon I enrolled in other courses. All were so helpful that I've actually become a Scout trainer. Repeatedly, I've seen people leave courses full of enthusiasm and new vision. Training is time well spent.

**Berets.** Though Scouter Robertson thinks the berets are silly and impractical, I think our uniform is both smart and distinctive looking. We should be proud of it.

— *Ross J. Miller, Pointe Claire, QC.*

## Surviving With a Large Pack

The 132nd Toronto Cub Pack is very large (39 youth), co-ed, and flourishing. Here's what makes us thrive.

We have a lot of adult volunteers with a wide range of talents. We have eight leaders at each meeting, three always work on badge testing and badge administration. *In addition*, we have two Kims who attend, a Venturer advisor, and a teenage Venturer leader who has taken her Woodbadge 1.

All these helpers contribute to making a wonderful, smoothly operating team. Frequent program and camp planning sessions help us all to know exactly what we're supposed to be doing at what point in the meetings.

But, we're still left with the inescapable fact that close to 50 young people and adults may be running around a church basement at any one time. This is where reliable coping strategies play an important role.

First, we encourage our Cubs to take an active part in running the program. We have Duty Sixes for every meeting; Cubs in the Duty Six participate in set-up and clean-up, as well as in opening and closing ceremonies. We also have an effective Sixers' Council.

Second, our pack believes strongly in putting the OUT in ScOUTing. Park rambles, bike hikes, toboggan nights and regular camping trips are important parts of the program. Here too, we get many parent volunteers.

Third, we adhere to the "divide and conquer" maxim. With a large pack it's very important to split the group up, particularly when working on badges, skits or crafts. This is done quite naturally in sixes.

Certainly there are times when the sheer numbers in our pack overwhelm us, but solid planning and strong participation carry us through.

— *Vivian Young, Toronto, ON.*

## E-Mail Complaints

I enjoyed the June/July editorial. Scouting does have much to celebrate. I admit that I have contributed perhaps more than my share to negative discussion on the e-mail lists, but at the same time, I think Internet discussions are important as long as they remain both civil and part of a useful discourse.

The one element that seems to be at the core of the negative discussions is the simple matter of democracy. Who controls Scouting in Canada? Front line Scouts and Scouters feel like changes are thrust upon them from on high with insufficient consultation. Do the provincial commissioners really know better than the section Scouters what the program should be? How can they?

Democracy and accountability. These are issues that need to be discussed in a public forum. Scouting may be good or even great now, but it will be even better if everyone feels they have a role and a voice in the national agenda.  $\Delta$

— *Liam Morland, Waterloo, ON.*

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