

the leader

MAY 1998

VOLUME NO. 9



Photo Contest

Winners

FAIRY TALE BEAVEREE • FAMILY SCOUTING

Picture This!

by Andy McLaughlin

IS SCOUTING STILL AN IMPORTANT PART OF CANADIAN COMMUNITIES? Is it an outdoors organization? Are our youth members having fun? Are our volunteer efforts worthwhile?

We often ask ourselves these questions at Scouts Canada as we continually seek ways to make Scouting programs more interesting and relevant to youth. Moments of self-doubt are inevitable and probably healthy. But judging by the flood of fantastic photos received in our photo contest, the answer to the above questions is a simple and enthusiastic "YES!"

While helping to judge this year's contest, I sampled a visual smorgasbord of photographs showing Scouts doing every kind of outdoor activity imaginable — camping (both summer and winter), canoeing, kayaking, rappelling, hiking, orienteering, cycling trips, campfires, outdoor Scout's Owns, and much more.

You're Outdoors-Oriented. Terrific!

Well over 95 percent of all entries were set outside. These photographs displayed action, excitement and high



Scouting youth are most happy when they're experiencing the outdoors.

adventure. The hundreds of contest photos illuminated the "out" in Scouting in huge neon lights!

The photo contest also showed hundreds of Scouting members selflessly working to better their communities. Inspiring images of busy and happy youths and adults collecting food for local food banks, planting trees in

parks, and entertaining seniors confirmed that Scouting *is* still a vital part of community life in Canada.

The second place photo of two Beavers at a Canada Day parade perfectly illustrated two important Scouting traits: fun and friendship. All the entries shared these themes.

Scouting continues to provide "good times with good friends" to members — whatever their age may be.

Turn to page 4 and see some of the contest's best entries. Over the next months we'll also use many of the remaining photos you sent to illustrate future **Leader** articles. Congratulations and thank you to everyone who entered this year's contest. Your exciting images reinforce the fact that Scouting programs continue to be valuable, vital, and fun.

As we all strive to provide our programs to more youth, remember the photos you see in this, and future, **Leader** issues. They portray real Scouts enjoying real programs. Use these photos and the ideas they portray to sell Scouting to youth and parents in your community.

The photo contest proves it: Scouting still matters! ^

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The Canadian Leader Magazine is produced 10 times a year by Canyouth Publications Ltd., an arms-length publishing company.
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Web Site: <http://www.scouts.ca/leader.htm>
Yearly subscription: registered members of Scouts Canada \$8 non-members \$8 outside Canada \$18

The Leader assists Scouters and other adults who work with young people through the publication of timely articles on Scouting's programs, resources and objectives. Canyouth Publications gratefully acknowledges the assistance of Scouts Canada in publishing **the Leader**.
Editorial contributions are made on a voluntary basis. Unsolicited submissions welcome.
Advertising Policy: Advertisement of a product or service does not indicate endorsement by publishers.

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

Photo: Charles McPhee

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Catching Some Serious Air!

scouting

Photo Contest Winners

★extraordinary..



Cecil Keeping captured not only the magnificent splendour of this Alberta Rocky Mountain scene, but also first prize.

THE LEADER MAGAZINE PROUDLY ANNOUNCES THE WINNERS of our fifth-ever photography contest.

Scouting members across the country flooded us with over 300 images celebrating their terrific programs and activities. What generated such enthusiasm?

No doubt it was our great prizes: a three-person **Premier North Trail Clip Stalker III tent**, a spacious **Brownsea 60-litre backpack**, a two-burner, propane-powered **Coleman stove**, 10 **Scout knives**, 15 **Scout Lifestyle bush hats**, and up to 20 **winter toques**.

After hours of discussion and scrutiny, our judges identified the winners. Who were these distinguished judges? They were: Richard Petsche (**Leader** art director), Roch Delorme (Scouts Canada's production manager), Ross Francis (Scouts Canada program director — Beavers and Cubs), Susan Muehlherr (program secretary), and Andy McLaughlin (**Leader** executive editor)



Second prize winner

Two Beavers from the 1st Sorrento Sockeye Colony enjoyed a colourful Canada Day parade in Blind Bay, BC. Photo: Annette Penner.



Airborne Cub!

Jay Chowhan (Mt. Pleasant, ON) timed this shot perfectly when he captured this high-flying Cub in the air during a Klondike Days camp.



Scouting is contentment for these Venturers as they rest during an early evening hike in Sleeping Giant Provincial Park. Photographer Garth Holder (Moncton, NB) found the right angle and moment.

Canoeing Paradise

Cubs from the 1st Pincher Creek Pack didn't know that their adventure-filled paddle around a mountain lake would be recorded by Marj Davis (Cowley, AB).



Aboriginally Aware Cubs

Kathy Sorenson's (Viking, AB) Cub pack spent part of a day making rock paintings with water-soluble paints. The activity helped everyone understand Aboriginal culture a little bit more.



Winner's Circle

Cecil Keeping (Calgary, AB) captured first prize for his breathtaking shot of Alberta's Kananaskis Country. Cecil will soon be pitching his new tent in many high-altitude perches.

Annette Penner (Blind Bay, BC) will be able to take just about everything she needs for a month-long backpacking trek in the mountains in her new Brownsea pack. She won second prize. Her warm photo of two Beavers watching a Canada Day parade captured the hearts of our judges.

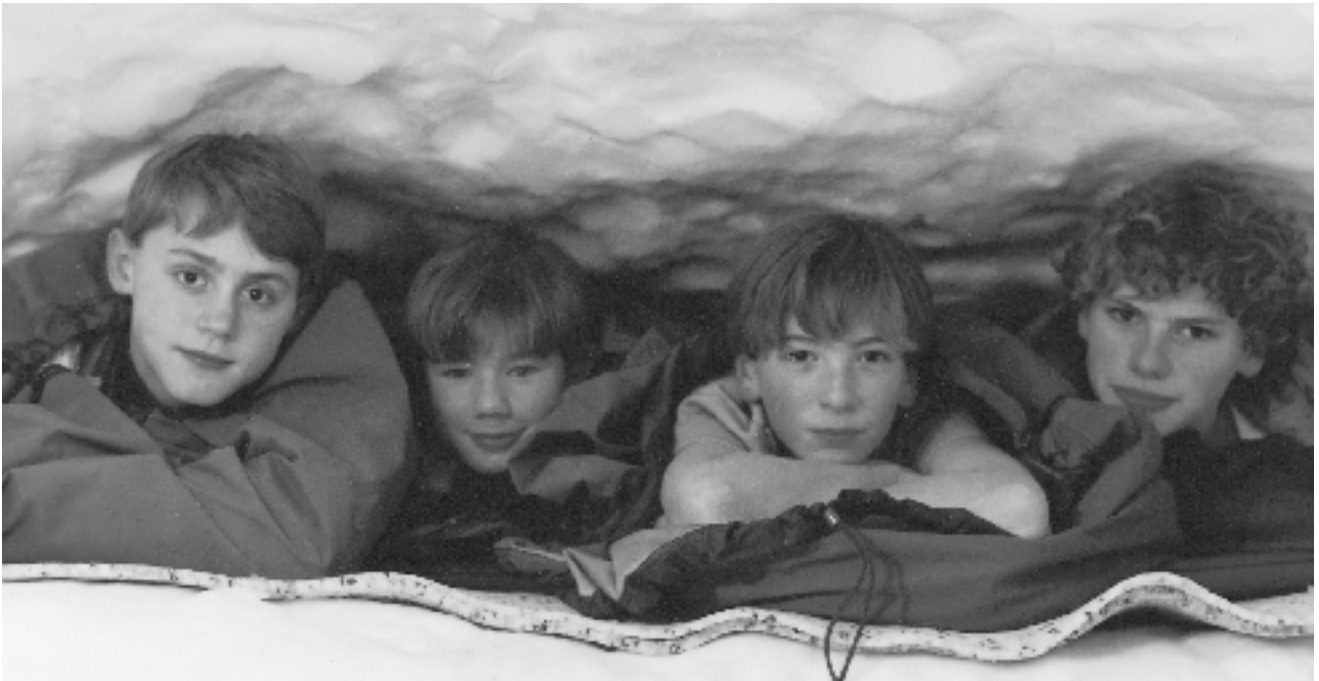
Martha Paris (Kaministiquia, ON) won third prize with her well-balanced photo of six Venturers. (Admire it on our front cover.) The Venturers were practising teamwork in

Pukaskwa National Park along Lake Superior's rocky shore. Martha and her company will enjoy some delicious meals cooked on her new Coleman stove.

"That's a 'Keeper'!"

The Leader will keep all photos (including non-winning pictures) and use them in other Scouting publications, except those accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Photographers will receive full credit if their images are used.

Thank you to everyone who contributed a photo. Your time and effort helped make this our most successful **Leader** magazine photography contest ever!



▲
No Chill-Out Here!

Dennis Power (Victoria, BC) took this shot of contented Scouts after they had completed a series of snow caves on Vancouver Island. Though the outside temperature had fallen well below freezing, the entire troop of 18 slept warmly inside.



▲
Peter Ng (Vancouver, BC) couldn't resist taking this picture of his proud Scouts as they finished an outstanding and practical pioneering project.



▶
"Here grows the future!" Catherine Walsh (Saint John, NB) captured this special moment as Beavers prepared to plant their first trees.

Watch for Our Next Photo Contest



We'll be announcing our next "Scouting Extravaganza" photo contest in the October **Leader**.

Until then, keep trying to capture that "Scouting feeling" on film. Who knows? The picture you take this summer at camp might earn you a tent, a backpack, or another terrific prize. X

1996 AMORY ADVENTURER AWARD

Discovering La Cloche Silhouette Trail

by 21st Nepean Venture Company

LAST YEAR, four Venturer companies won awards for their Amory Adventures. Two companies tied for second place: 144th Lake Bonavista Sea Venturers, Calgary, AB and the 21st Nepean Venturers, ON. This is how the Nepean Venturers earned their honours.

We all knew that this 120 km, nine-day wilderness hike would be an unforgettable experience. That's why all ten youths in our company decided to make it a priority. Park literature said the trail was one of the most challenging hikes in the province.

After poring over maps for several weeks, we all agreed to tackle the very challenging La Cloche Silhouette Trail in Killarney Park, ON.

Why did this trail inspire us?

The La Cloche Silhouette Trail has a very distinguished history. Artists of the Group of Seven visited the area repeatedly during the 1920s and '30s. Many of their famous panoramas are views of the La Cloche hills. It's a landscape formed by immense geological forces, sculpted by ancient glaciers, and inhabited by vegetation and wildlife adapted to the often severe conditions that exist here. Hidden in leafy undergrowth, moose, bears, wolves and bobcats watch all interlopers.

Slow Start

Our first day involved a long, tiring drive to the park. We finally arrived late in the evening, set up our tents in the dark, ate supper, readied our equipment, and hit the sack exhausted. We had planned a two-kilometre hike in to a campsite along the trail, but common sense over-ruled; an earlier start next morning made better sense.

We awoke to find a raccoon had consumed almost an entire bag of freeze-dried chili during the night. (He must

have suffered from garlic overload for days!) After packing a new meal, we ate breakfast and set off. Within an hour a backpack strap broke suddenly. It was easily fixed, but throughout the next nine days the problem re-occurred. What else would go wrong, we wondered? We soon got an answer.



*Beavers must
have made this dam
their life work!*

How Could They Do That?

"Lunch time!" someone called out. Before sitting down on a rock outcrop, we noticed a bag of food hanging in a tree. We shook our heads wondering how hikers could forget such an important item in the wilderness. Apparently, they had hung it up — protection from prying claws — then set out without the bag after finishing lunch. That would never happen to us, we thought. We were too well prepared.

Then we dug into our own packs, tore open the lunch wrapping, and took a ravenous bite.

"Yuck!" a chorus of voices rang out. "This is terrible!"

Several members wore sour expressions on their faces. The power bars that were to be a main element in our lunch diet for the next week tasted aw-

ful. We had forgotten to give them a taste test before leaving home. Another lesson learned.

After we set off again, our trail crossed a portage, climbed a series of steep hills, wound around a rocky ridge, and finally ended at a crystal blue lake. In moments our tents were up; then we headed for the lake at top speed.

"We're for Lunch?"

Over the next days we encountered many challenges (including a faulty water filter), but all of us had the unmistakable feeling we were being watched.

Who or what, you ask?

Mosquitoes. They proved constant companions. Every night they would gather outside our tents and press their barbed noses against the netting, eyeing us as if we were the buffet in an all-you-can-eat restaurant. Throughout the trip we had no qualms about using excessive force in self-defence against these winged devils. By the end of this wilderness odyssey, our reputation had grown in the insect kingdom; fewer mosquitoes and black flies bothered us — proof they respected our supreme power.

Well-Learned Lessons

Though we had spent considerable time planning our trip and second-guessing problems, a trip as ambitious as this one revealed many weaknesses in our preparations. Here are some tips how your group can avoid difficulties.

- Bring an extra water filter.
- Go on several weekend test hikes.
- Bring a repair kit for your equipment.
- Plan for many wet days.

Would we go on another hike like this?

You bet! It taught us self-reliance, planning and teamwork — a real Venturing challenge. X

Fairy Tale Beaveree

Just in time for Summer!

by Hazel Hallgren

If you're wondering how to keep that Scouting spirit bubbling throughout the summer, here's the perfect solution... a fairy tale Beaveree.

Kids love fairy tales with magical drama and child heroes. Last year Scouters from Red Deer, Alberta, held an all-day fairy tale Beaveree that included almost 100 children. At each activity station (named after a popular fairy tale), Beavers enjoyed an exciting activity or craft.

Jack Be Nimble Obstacle Course

Children enjoy climbing, tumbling and swinging. This obstacle course helped exuberant Beavers work off excess energy quickly. Working in teams of two, Beavers had to roll in a giant cardboard box for five metres, then crawl under string netting. If Beavers raised their heads above the net, a watchful Cub squirted them with water.

Next came a fun challenge where children jumped through string criss-

crossed a few inches above the ground. After climbing over a picnic table, participants had to kick a football back and forth between orange pylons. Other challenges along their path included:

- tossing rings at bottles,
- blowing through a straw to move a balloon along a string,
- running between pylons with a water balloon held between knees.

Billy Goats Gruff

Beavers teamed up with four buddies to race with shush boards (team skis).

We set the scene for this station by first reading the story of the *Three Billy Goats Gruff* to Beavers. Then we told them they had to pass over a small area marked off to look like a bridge while wearing the shush boards. If they walked too slowly, a troll might come running.

"Is there really a troll here?" one of the Beavers asked, eyes bright and sparkling.

"Well, I haven't seen one today," Rainbow answered mischievously, "but who knows."

It took some practice before each team worked together lifting first one foot, then the other in rhythm.

Fairyland

At this station, Beavers experimented with bubbles. They started by making a bubble mixture from 1 litre water, 300 mL liquid dishwashing soap, and 100 mL glycerine (available in most drugstores).

Each child had a small bowl to play with his or her bubbles, as well as straws, small circular wires, tin cans with both ends cut out, and other bubble-making instruments. We also had a piece of garden hose that Beavers dipped in a wide tub to make titanic bubbles that looked as if a wizard had brewed them up from some magic potion.

It didn't take long until bubbles large and small encircled the whole area. They floated upwards and by other stations, causing shrieks of delight!

Jack and the Beanstalk

At this station each Beaver received a small flower pot to decorate with ribbons, markers, construction paper, and

Ring tosses let Beavers test their hand/eye coordination.



Photos: Hazel Hallgren

stickers. When the pots were ready, leaders gave out a small bag of soil and a giant bean to each child for planting. Before burying their seed, Beavers blew on it — a 'home-grown' magic technique used in Alberta — and planted it with great expectations.

"Will this bean reach the clouds, like Jack's?" someone asked.

For the next weeks Beavers watched the progress of their would-be colossal beanstalks. Unfortunately, none reached the sky.

Hansel and Gretel Nature Walk

Cubs, Scouts and Venturers ran this station, leading nature walks along clearly marked trails. As the Beavers walked, they had to find different nature objects: a bird's nest, sign of new life, three different insects, a wildflower, a spider's web, something birds eat, an old stump, and more.

After arriving back from their hike, leaders gave each Beaver a picture of Hansel and Gretel to colour. They got a different coloured crayon for each nature object they located during the walk.

Puss in Boots

Beavers chose what fairy tale character they wanted painted on their face at this station. Be sure to use water

paints, washable markers, or some other harmless colour medium. Make sure your face-painting artists practise before starting.



Merlin the Magician

"You mean we're going to make wizard hats and magic wands?!" Many Beavers couldn't wait to start.

Divide your Beavers into two groups: one makes magic wands, while the other makes wizard hats.

For the wands you'll need pre-cut stars (8 cm across) made from heavy, coloured card stock. Let your Beavers run a glue stick over the star, then drop sparkles onto the glue. Staple the stars to plastic straws and "Shazam!" You've got magic wands.

Pre-cut the wizard hats from black construction paper. Beavers can then glue on stars, planets, moons, and other objects to the hats, then help staple their wizard hat together. (Ask a Cub pack to help cut out tiny stars, planets, moons, and suns from brightly coloured construction paper.)

At our Beaveree, Merlin entertained everyone with a brief magic show before the children moved on.

Quiet Moments

Beaveres can be loud, exciting places. Some children may need to spend quiet moments resting alone or listening to a story. Set up a large tent away from the crowd or gather under a tree where these Beavers can listen to relaxing fairy tales read by a sympathetic adult.

Be creative. Include crafts or activities that children can make easily on their own. Ask a guitar-playing Scout or Venturer to sing some songs from *The Beaver Song Book*. (Your Beaveree could serve as an excellent linking event.)



Goofy golf is so much more fun when you're dressed like a wizard.

Friendship Prayer

Prayers can help fulfil Scouting's spiritual goals.

Begin the day in friendship,
Be friendly all day long.
Keep in your soul
a friendly thought,
In your heart a friendly song.
Have at the ready
a word of cheer,
For all who come your way.
And they will meet you
too in turn,
And add smiles to your day.

Fantasia

Scouts and Venturers ran this series of carnival games.

Pin the Tail on Eeyore

Winnie the Pooh, Eeyore and Tigger were all mini-stations for this game. While blindfolded, Beavers had to "help the bees find the honey" (stick a bee picture on Pooh Bear's honey pot), nail the tail on Eeyore, and stick Tigger's tail back on.

Use this story and activity to discuss how to help friends in need. Think of some practical, real-life situations for your Beavers.

Pinocchio's Nose

Beavers had to throw various sizes of rings over Pinocchio's nose. You

might want to use this game to discuss telling the truth.

Three Little Pigs

Beavers threw tennis balls at walls made from milk carton "bricks." Use this story and game to discuss bullying, and how to support schoolmates who are bothered by mean kids.

Pack Red Riding Hood's Basket

Gather a number of items that could be found in Red Riding Hood's basket that she's taking to her grandma. Some items might include a sock stuffed with paper, a glove, a margarine container, a paper plate, a box of cookies. Each participant must stand two metres away from a wicker basket and toss these items into the container.

Make a Wish at the Good Fairy's Well

Each child had at least five chances to toss a shiny penny into a large glass bowl filled with water. In the bottom of the bowl was a saucer. Beavers who successfully landed a penny in the saucer (let them shoot until they land one) made a secret wish at the enchanted well. What special wish can Beavers make for someone else? Discuss "being there" for friends in need.

Goofy Golf

Beavers played mini golf with croquet mallets and golf balls. They

knocked the balls into various sizes of tin cans. (Everything from soup cans to coffee tins.) Perhaps you could make this into a relay race.

Donald Duck's Revenge

Each year we invite Ducks Unlimited to attend our Beaverees. This year they brought many "hands on" objects that children could touch and feel. Their display really drove the conservation message home to everyone. With a little work and perhaps some help from Scouts and Venturers, your Beaveree could have a conservation table tied into Donald Duck.

Do any local Scouts or Venturers have wasp paper (paper from a wasp nest)? Perhaps they have an entire nest. Ask a Scout to describe life in the nest.

Does anyone have a dead wasp or bee that they could bring? Maybe someone has a mounted butterfly collection. Look at these creatures using a magnifying glass. See how delicate their legs and arms are? How would water or air pollution affect them?

Does anyone have a bird's nest at home? Make a list of all the materials the bird used to make this into a home to raise babies. Can you see spider webs? String? Grass? Twigs? Mud?

If someone from Ducks Unlimited is unable to come, perhaps a local field naturalist would volunteer, or an environmentalist, or someone involved in composting.

Fairy tales almost always paint wolves as evil, dark creatures. Set the record straight for your Beavers. Tell them that a wild wolf in the outdoors has never killed a human in North America. Wolves are shy creatures that want to avoid humans.

Set up a poster showing many species of ducks and birds. See how many your Beavers can identify correctly.

A summer Beaveree is the perfect way to get children anticipating more Scouting fun in the fall. Make it a family event. Invite children who aren't involved in your program yet, so they can "test out" the activities and meet new friends.

Look for every opportunity to tie older Beavers into the Cub program.

Fairy tales, imagination, adventure, dressing up. It's all part of the excitement Scouting can bring to young lives.

λ

— Hazel Hallgren is a highly-creative Beaver leader from Red Deer, Alberta.



Photo: Hazel Hallgren

A Simple Way to Promote Scouting

by Patrick Conlin

Scouting members have talked plenty about our dropping membership in recent years. They have shared many ideas and theories describing why young people are going elsewhere for youth programs. All levels of Scouting — from national to local — have worked hard to combat the problem; we've seen, and been part of, the efforts.

Now, I'm not a public relations expert, just another Scouter who's had his eyes and ears open to the problem. But my Scouts and I have found some rather interesting things to do at the group level to increase membership.

Interested?

Raise your Visibility

Scouting is a uniformed Movement. The more times people see our members in uniform having fun or helping the community, the more times they'll think of Scouting. If no one sees our youths and adults in uniform, we'll be invisible. Out of sight, out of mind.

In our group, we insist that all members attend every Scouting event or activity *in uniform*. We wear uniforms for bottle drives, camps, city outings, you name it. We even ask Scouts and their families to wear their uniforms while out shopping — not every time, naturally, but on a regular basis. When an entire Scouting family (parents included) wear their uniforms, it's visually striking. It is amazing how many people come over and chat about Scouting when you "go public." Other people like to see it!

If sports teams wear their uniforms regularly in front of their target audience, why don't we?

PR Troop Specialty Badge

One year our Troop Specialty Badge emphasized "Public Relations." It fired up the imaginations of all the Scouts.



Let's "go public" with Scouting!

Suddenly *they* wanted to broadcast to the world about *their* great programs. The Scouts themselves took ownership of the programs, and liked it. They wanted to tell their friends about the outdoor activities and adventure. On their own, the Scouts looked for opportunities to support their fellow Scouts at bowling leagues, and soccer or hockey games. Pretty exciting to watch!

You should see the positive reaction we get when group members support fellow Scouts at outside (non-Scouting) sporting events. It's great! This sends several messages. First, it shows that Scouting is not competing with sports activities. It's more than just sports, or outdoor activities; it points toward a way of life. Second, by going out and supporting fellow Scouts, it builds comradeship, and displays good team spirit and commitment. This encourages others to join.

Take Command and Move Out!

Now, don't get me wrong. I'm grateful for any, and all, publicity that Scouts Canada can give in the form of radio or television public service announcements. But is it humorous to see recruiting commercials for Scouts at 2 a.m. on late night television? Who are we reaching at that time of night? Many stations aren't running the ads during the day when the message would do some good.

I have also noticed posters that appear primarily during the registration season. Shouldn't we put fresh posters up *every month* in schools?

Membership numbers are falling! Scouting can either grow, or it can disintegrate. Let's *stop* the erosion.

Local Scout leaders — the level closest to the kids — have a serious responsibility. We *must* become more visible in our communities. We must show the public

that we're still here providing not just good programs, but *outstanding* and exciting programs.

Excuse Me

A Scouter once told me that she had been walking through a shopping mall in uniform and a woman stopped her. "Are you in Scouts?" the woman asked. "I haven't seen a Scout for ages. I thought Scouting had died out a long time ago."

That comment speaks to me. Perhaps it doesn't say everything, but it says plenty. Wear your uniform on a regular basis and be proud to be a Scout. I'm proud of Scouting, and so are hundreds of thousands of other Canadians. ^

— Patrick Conlin is a Troop Scouter with the 116th Lynnwood Group in Edmonton, Alberta.

Your Venturers Can Organize a Mega Event



by Robert L. MacLean

Photo: John Meed

When I took over a brand new Venturer company as its advisor, I thought I knew quite a bit. After all, I had seven years experience as a Troop

Scouter. It wasn't long before I was both surprised and sometimes shocked at camping and outdoor events Venturers attended.

Why?

They were huge, weekend camps with many groups attending. What made these camps exciting for the teens was meeting old friends, making new friends, and enjoying the catalyst of the camp's activities.

These area camping events all had a formula for success — just like romance novels. It was fairly simple:

- Friday evening: opening.
- Saturday: activities and events.
- Sunday morning: awards and closing.

We Can Do That

After attending many of these camps in their first year, my Venturers decided that by including all the best features, and omitting things they didn't like, they could organize their own mega event.

"This will involve hard work," I said more than once. "If it's really big, you probably won't enjoy the event yourself; you'll be so busy working." My words didn't restrain the growing excitement.

Our first attempt at carrying out a mega camping activity met with only limited success. Though we booked a huge camping area, only six Venturers and I camped that weekend. Why? The Venturers didn't do enough planning and pre-camp work. They found out the hard way that I wasn't going to take the responsibility for their mass camp on my shoulders.

**"Anyone for human bowling?"
This activity is a
sure crowd-pleaser.**



JamFest Exuberance

After carefully reviewing what they had done wrong, the Venturers (with a bit of my help) started early and planned another huge camp, called JamFest I. This one attracted over 200 campers and proved a wonderful success. The Venturers worked hard, planned well, and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Before JamFest I ended, my Venturers had started planning JamFest II! That was several years ago.

Very soon, we're going to be hosting JamFest V. Our company is expecting over 1,000 youths this year. The JamFest theme: "Celebrating 30 Years of Venturing."

Each year we make changes to the program so it continually offers something different — even unusual. We do, however, hang onto proven favourites. For example, if you register early and arrive early, your group may be lucky enough to choose a chesterfield or easy chair for the weekend camp. (You'll have somewhere comfortable to recline on, while others sit on the ground.)

Photo: Robert MacLean

Auto Mechanics 101 New York style (some call it car bashing) is a perennial favourite. This activity requires tight controls to maintain safety. Dunk tanks are always a highlight attraction, especially on hot days. One year we filled our tank with pancake mix. It made a big splash with everyone! Human bowling (through chocolate pudding) gives Venturers a perfect excuse to go for a dip in the river. As with all Scouting events, we feature a spectacular campfire with lots of activities aimed at 'sophisticated' teens.

Challenge Them

Your Venturers, too, can plan a huge camping event. It's incredibly great training. If your company isn't big enough, work with a neighbouring group. With a little guidance, you'll be amazed at the capacity for planning, resource management, and execution your Venturers exhibit. Planning a mass event will knit your entire group together. Seeking a common goal, they'll face and overcome difficulties and challenges that only weeks before would have proved insurmountable. The exercise will generate real group pride and individual self-confidence. Watching teens as they stride up this steep learning curve is really exciting!

"My Venturers would never be interested in this," you might say.

Okay, then ensure their yearly program includes planning one major challenge. They will mature and grow with the challenge and success.

Don't be tempted to take over when the going gets tough. Let your Ventur-

ers fail if necessary; that's part of learning. (Remember: our first mega camping event failed dismally, but rather than devastating them, it sparked a desire to succeed.) Then, afterwards review what went wrong and how to solve the problems.

Identify those tasks that are within the capability of most teens, and tasks

A mega event can focus excitement in your company!

that are clearly beyond their abilities. Show them how to break the event down into bite-sized components, then how to handle each one in a systematic and organized manner.

Some tasks may fall to you. Accept this willingly; after all, you're part of the company. But don't let them shrug off *their* responsibilities on you. Listen to their ideas and trust their judgement; they are the ones with the vision for what they want to achieve. Too many Venturer events and activities are planned, organized and carried out by adult advisors. Sometimes advisors make this mistake because it seems easier to do it themselves. Perhaps it is, but Scouting seeks to use its program to train youth for the future. This will only happen if Venturers get their hands dirty and solve problems themselves.

Here are some program ideas to consider if you plan an event like ours:

- world's longest lap-sit,
- precision bean bag toss competitions,
- raft making (Tom Sawyer theme).

Why not build in safety or healthy living themes like biking, canoeing,

driving or even host discussions with guest speakers talking about smoking or drug abuse? You might even use the event to link with Scouts and Rovers.

Give them Credit

Teens are very capable individuals. Identify their skills and abilities, then channel these toward success. Challenge your Venturers; sometimes push them to the edge of their capabilities. Help them find the right path and they'll feel the thrill of victory and growth.

You don't have to be an experienced Scouter to fire up your Scouts or Venturers to great feats of achievement. All you need to do is offer some help and guidance. Be their cheerleader and cut them loose. My reward comes when I see all those tired happy faces at the end of camp. X

— Robert L. MacLean is a wise advisor with the co-ed 5th Markham Venture Company, ON.



Photo: Robert MacLean

Twister boards are ever-popular.

Attend JamFest!

Come celebrate 30 years of Venturing at JamFest V!

It's not too late to register for JamFest V in Markham, ON, but you'll have to hurry. It runs from May 22-24!

Register today for a great camping experience, outdoor fun and roaring campfires. For more information call 905-472-2030, or e-mail: macler@tdbank.ca.

Smoking Kills.

It's Time to Break Free!

by Sharon Espeseth

HAVE YOU TREATED YOUR CUBS, Scouts or Venturers to a smoking awareness or healthy living theme program lately?

Smoking kills about one in three smokers, and leads to a whole string of other illnesses. Just breathing the toxic fumes can be almost as life-threatening for non-smokers as actually lighting up themselves. Why not build a whole program around a smoke awareness evening?

This poem was written to spark discussion among teens. Use it in your group, then play the game that follows.

*I didn't mean to smoke,
But my friends smoke.
I didn't mean to smoke,
But it looked so cool.
I didn't mean to smoke,
But the ad people looked
Like the "me" I wanted to be.
I didn't mean to smoke,
But, hey, I could decide for myself.*

*Now I think...
Am I risking my health?
Would my parents be hurt if they knew?
Deceiving them isn't fun anymore.
I don't feel as cool as I thought I would.
I smell like a smoker.*

*This thin white thing
I hold between my lips
Controls me
As I stand outside
On a cold day
Struggling with matches
Snuffed out
By bitter wind.*

Break Free Chase Game

This activity (and resulting discussion) will help youth understand the freedom of being non-smokers. It might even help smokers in your group decide to "break free" from their smoking addiction.

Seat your members in *five* lines facing the centre of a star-like pattern. (See diagram) One player stands alone outside the star. This person is called the "All Star."

The All Star moves around outside the pattern and stops *behind* one line, saying either "Break Free!" or "All Stars!" If the person says, "Break Free!" the players in the line must run in the *opposite* direction as the All Star; if the person says, "All Stars!", the other players must run in the *same* direction. Everyone races for a position in the line. The player left standing without a place to sit becomes the new All Star.

Discussion Tips

1. This activity requires a quick spurt of energy. Your muscles will need fresh oxygen very quickly. If you smoke, your entire body will lag behind because your lungs, blood and oxygen are all affected by the toxic chemicals.
2. The All Star in this game has to be faster than other players to gain a place in line. All Stars who succeed in finding a sitting place in line will probably have clean lungs, and be able to get that quick burst of energy.
3. Sometimes "breaking free" means saying "no" to the question, "Do you want a cigarette?" It might mean going in a different direction than your friends. Understand that a decision to say "no" means you're staying in control of your own life. You're not letting others influence important life decisions.
4. Being an "All Star" means being the best you can be in whatever you do. It means not only being prepared to make the right decision, but actually "doing" it — making it happen.

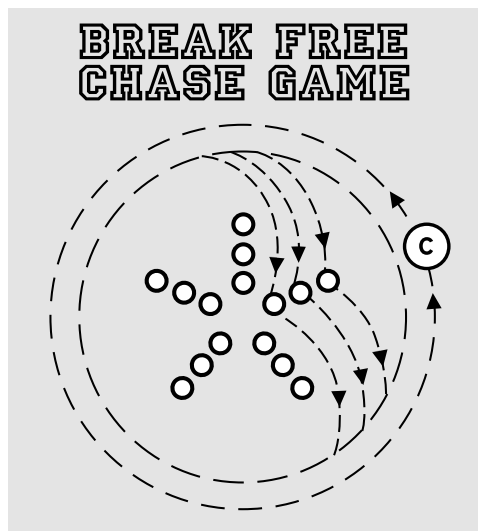
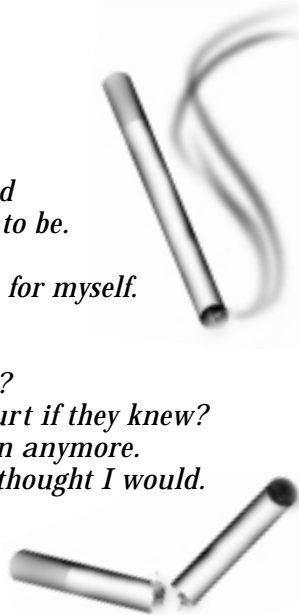
You might want to tie your smoke-free theme into a first aid program, a trip to the fire hall, or other active games. Venturers or older Scouts might want to tie this program into CPR or artificial respiration training. Tell us how you made your program effective for youth.

Get Your Info Kit

Would you like more information about organizing a smoke-free theme program?

The Canadian Parks/Recreation Association offers an outstanding Break-Free All Stars program booklet. Get yours today by writing to: Shelley Callaghan, Canadian Parks/Recreation Assoc., 1600-306 James Naismith, Gloucester, ON, K1B 5N4. Phone: (613) 748-5651; fax: (613) 748-5854.

— Sharon Espeseth lives in Barrhead, Alberta.



INVESTITURE AND STAR WOGGLE IDEAS

by Connie Favreau and Rick Smith

Wondering how to make a Beaver investiture more special?

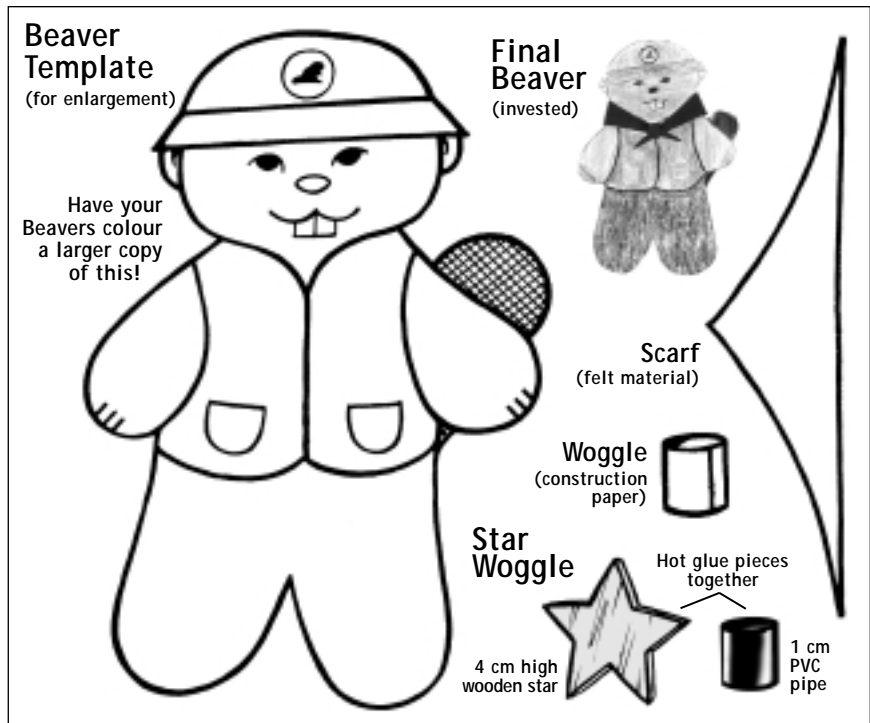
Connie Favreau of the 5th Barlow Creek Colony in Quesnel, BC, gets her Beavers to make a special woggle as an opening to an investiture ceremony.

Beavers first cut out a beaver shape (see diagram) and colour it, while reciting the Beaver Law and Promise. Then, leaders give each child a pre-cut scarf made from felt, and a piece of brown construction paper that looks like a woggle. After the child puts the scarf on the beaver and attaches the woggle, he or she has a newly invested Beaver!

Star Woggle

Beavers in Rick Smith's New Brunswick colony loved making this star woggle. Here's how to make yours.

Cut out a number of stars about 4 cm high from wood scraps — a good job for a parent. Let your Beavers sand



(especially the points), and paint the stars with watercolours. Then, hot glue the star to a piece of 2 cm thick PVC pipe cut in 1 cm lengths.

This woggle will make all your Beavers feel like "stars." Why not

discuss constellations and heavenly bodies during the evening, too?

— Rick Smith is from the 1st New Maryland Colony, NB, while Connie Favreau is from Quesnel, BC.

A new Scouts Canada Publication for YOUTH

SCOUT QUEST

Looking for something new and exciting on the Internet? This is it!

ScoutQuest is a new youth magazine published on the World Wide Web for young Scouts Canada members. The National Youth Committee manages it through a teenage editorial board. All articles have come directly from youth members.

Where can you find it?

Here's the address: www.scouts.ca/youth.htm.

Why ScoutQuest?

ScoutQuest will let youth members across Canada keep in touch with each other. It will help them share some of the real issues that affect their lives. Articles include anything from ideas for camp (e.g. camp recipes), to managing time commitments, to funny stories, and trivia.

If you want to submit articles to ScoutQuest, simply send them to the provincial youth contact listed on the site for your province.

So... get on line with ScoutQuest.



Check out ScoutQuest at www.scouts.ca/youth.htm

“Flaming Fire-Starters Batman!”

from Vernon “Skink” Dutton

If starting fires is as difficult for your troop as it sometimes is for ours, here’s a good craft your Cubs or Scouts will enjoy. When completed, it’s perfect to stick in their pack for use on the trail.

Each youth should fold a piece of old newspaper into a strip about 5 cm wide, then roll and tie it up with a long string. With at least one adult present closely supervising the activity, dip the rolled paper into a tin of melted wax until the paper has absorbed all the wax possible. Lift the rolled paper out and allow the wax to harden.

Not only are these fire-starters great for hiking trips, but they’re also terrific for emergency kits.

— Vernon “Skink” Dutton *Scouts in Winnipeg, Manitoba.*

Next time you want to start a fire easily, just reach in your pack and use a fire-starter.



Photo: Eric Harkonen

HIGH TECH SOLAR HEATER

by Joseph Allan

Scenario: You’re three days into a hiking trip and your fuel’s almost gone. But you really want a mug of hot chocolate.

What do you do? Start up the stove and use the last of your fuel? Is it a choice between a hot supper or a cup of hot chocolate?

Scouts from Riverview New Brunswick would never face this dilemma. When their tummies start whispering, “We want hot chocolate down here,” they simply unbuckle the solar water heaters on the side of their packs, and pour a cup.

A solar heater doesn’t involve even elementary rocket science. Here’s how to make one.

1. Wash out a 600 mL (or larger) plastic pop bottle. Keep the cap.
2. Take a dark coloured plastic garbage bag, and cut it into three rectangles the size of the bottle. Cut it 5 cm longer on the bottom and 12 cm longer on the sides. (See diagram)
3. Arrange the rectangles on top of each other and place the bottle in the middle of the rectangles.
4. Fold the sides over the bottle and tape it in place. Then, fold the bottom over, as shown in the diagram.

5. Fill the bottle with water and put it in the sun. (It’s best if you put it on warm ground — like hot beach sand — but even a backpack will work if the day is hot.)

6. Within 10-60 minutes, the water will be hot.

Have a discussion with your Cubs or Scouts about why the water gets hot. The dark covering around the water bottle warms up and transfers this heat to the water.

Anyone for a Hot Shower?

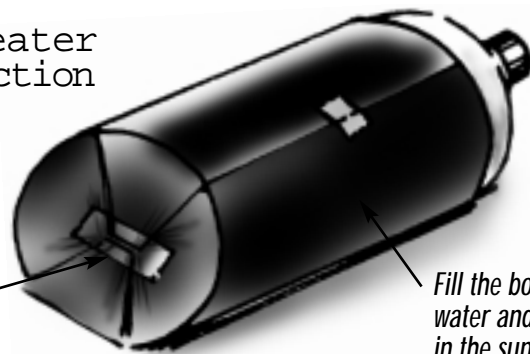
If you’re at a standing camp, why not expand this idea and make a solar powered hot shower?

To make one, just put water in an extra thick, dark coloured plastic garbage bag. Tie the water-filled bag on a low tree branch in the afternoon sun. When the water is warm or hot, tilt the bag so water can slowly run out of the end, then grab the soap for a refreshing shower in the woods! \

— Joseph Allan and his Scouts from Riverview, NB, insist on the “finer things” during troop camps.

Solar Heater Construction

Fold the sides of the plastic over the bottle and tape it in place.



Fill the bottle with water and place it in the sun.

TRAVEL TIPS FOR YOUTH

If your group is planning any summer travel, be sure you contact the Student Youth Travel Association (SYTA). It has a very informative, free brochure packed full of outstanding tips dealing with safety precautions, travelling abroad, travelling by air, things to avoid at hotels, and much more.

Here’s how to contact them: SYTA, 1730 I St., Ste. 240, Sacramento, CA, 95814. Phone: (916) 443-0519; fax: (916) 443-8065; e-mail: info@syta.com.

Agony and Delight: Make this Lightweight Oven for the Trail

by Ian Mitchell

IT WAS DAY FOUR OF OUR COMPANY'S SIX-DAY BACKPACKING HIKE. Supper was over, and we were gathered around a campfire. My mind drifted off with images of mom's incredible sponge cake dancing through my head. How I longed to dig into a big piece right now! I could see it, smell it, and even taste it. If only we had an oven, I could have whipped up her sponge cake right there. But, alas we did not.

The next hours were sheer agony as I wrestled with the delicious tastes and aromas in my imagination. No one should have to endure such hardship. To save your Venturers a similar traumatic experience, here's how they can make a low-cost, lightweight reflector oven. (John J. Poluhowich designed it.) The oven packs away flat, and sets up quickly, allowing campers to experience tasty baked treats while on the trail.

Materials

These materials are available anywhere. Gather them before your oven-building meeting.

- coat hangar wire: one piece 107 cm (43"), and two pieces 58 cm (23"),
- one 16 penny nail,
- two pieces threaded rod 3 mm (1/8") by 30 cm (12"),
- 6 regular 3 mm (1/8") nuts,
- 2 wing nuts with lock washers,
- 45 cm (18") heavy duty aluminum foil,
- 30 cm (12") of thin wire,
- hacksaw or file,
- hammer and pliers.

Directions

1. Make a 90 degree angle bend 15 cm (6") from one end of the longer coat hangar wire. Ten centimetres (4") from this bend, form a loop by bending the wire around the 16 penny nail. (Here's a tip: lock the wire and nail in a vice during bending.) Ten centimetres (4") beyond the loop, make another right angle bend. (See illustration)
2. Make a third right angle bend 27 cm (11") from the second bend. Make another loop 10 cm (4") from the third bend.
3. Complete a rectangle by forming the last 90 degree bend. The wire should overlap at the bottom by about 2.5 cm (1").
4. With a hacksaw or file, cut some shallow grooves into the wire where it overlaps so thin wire can grip the two pieces.
5. Thread a nut on each end of one of the shorter rods and fit it between the two loops in the rectangle with about 1 cm (1/2") of rod extending through each loop. Place a lock washer and nut on each end, and tighten both down.

6. Bend a loop in the centre of the two short wires. Do this by placing the nail 26 cm (10 1/2") from the end, and then bending the loop.
7. Curve each piece so they fit inside the short side of the rectangle. Make u-bends in both ends of each short wire.
8. Hammer the u-bends closed once they are hooked to the sides of the rectangle. Now open the frame and run the second threaded rod through the loops on the side pieces. As with the first rod, use two nuts on the inside, and complete the frame by locking it in place with the two wing nuts.
9. Now cover the frame with the aluminum foil, but begin by forming the shelf. Then cover each side, followed by the top and bottom. With care, the same foil can be used several times.

Baker's Delight

When baking, place the oven near your campfire and brace the back with a small stick. Use the oven several times before you take it on a long trip — just so you know how it works.

Next time hunger pangs strike for mother's incredible cake, you'll be prepared to bake it wherever you are... as long as you remember to bring the ingredients in your pack!

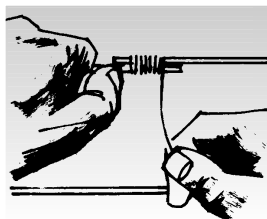
"What do you mean you thought I was bringing the recipe. I've got the oven!" \

Lightweight Reflector Oven

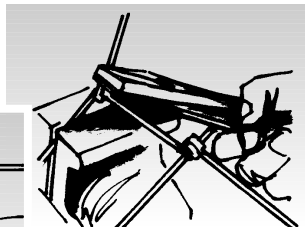
Construction



Form loops in coat hangar wire. Bend the wire around a small nail held in a vise.

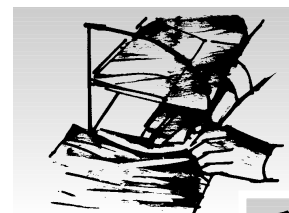


Wire together the loose frame ends.

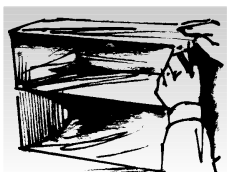
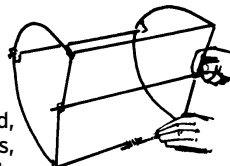


Attach curved sides to the frame by making u-bends.

A removable threaded rod, held in place by wind nuts, supports the framework.



Cover the frame with heavy aluminum foil.



Cover the back, sides and top with foil.

Scouting

Go Public!

by Paul Ritchi



Photo: Paul Ritchi

You've heard it before. Media seem full of bad news stories about young people. They give us all the impression that social deviance among youth is climbing steadily.

Why is it that more and more adults look at young people with a suspicious eye — especially if the teens are gathered in groups of three or more? These people have a very false impression. Here are the real facts: young people who do fall into the troublesome category are the *visible* few, not the majority!

Scouting can and does make a measurable, positive difference in the lives of young people. Its many outstanding programs and activities help shape youth members into responsible and successful citizens. It prepares them for leadership roles in the future. When delivered as designed, Scouting far exceeds any other youth program, and gives young people a practical education for life. Let's celebrate Scouting and tell the public about its value.

In our ever-changing and complex society, many parents are searching for community-based organizations that can compliment their own efforts to raise well-balanced, successful and responsible children. Community leaders brainstorm for creative ideas

to combat youth problems before they get worse. Many young people too seek exciting and meaningful activities, but how many turn to Scouting? Not enough!

Why not?

Perhaps part of the problem lies with us Scouters. *We have some clear solutions*, yet how many of us spend time thinking how we can be more effective? We wonder why community support is often weak, or how we can add extra zip to our programs, but perhaps we need to get our groups out more often in the public eye. Let them *see* our Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Venturers and Rovers having fun. Let them see what our programs look like. Let them see our responsible youth members offering public

service in an safe and controlled environment.

Show them Scouting!

Golden opportunities abound for your group to:

- embark on an adventure,
- forge partnerships with community leaders,
- raise your Scouting profile,
- help others, and
- have fun.

Will young members enjoy themselves in the process and earn badges? You bet! Will parents accept challenges and increase their support to the group? Yes. They'll start taking more ownership of the Scouting group, and talk to friends about their involvement. It's a win-win situation for everyone.

Most people *do* want to make a difference; they simply need someone to show them how, and offer encouragement.

Here are some program ideas we have used to raise local awareness of Scouting. Some may be suitable in your area.

Visit a Retirement Home

Recently, 12 of our Cubs working on their purple star visited a retirement home. The Cubs passed around their photo album showing the pack in action, played some board games, sang a few songs, told stories, and listened to interesting life anecdotes of residents.

The Cubs enjoyed the visits so much that they've promised to return in the near future. These grandparents are now spreading the Scouting word among their relatives and friends. Scouting made a difference to these people and they're telling others.

Police/Fire/Ambulance Stations

Visit emergency centers and establish a friendship with key managers. Encourage representatives of these agencies to work with your group on related badges, such as the Cub Law Awareness, Home Safety, and First Aid Badges. Take and share photographs of the visits. Maintain contact; both parties will benefit.

Perhaps police would allow older Scouting youth to help with traffic or crowd control during local parades; Cubs or Beavers could wash down fire trucks; Venturers or Rovers could help run a first aid course or shovel the driveway of a local family that, for one reason or another, is unable to do so.

Whatever you do and wherever you go, be as visible as possible. Help people, serve the neighbourhood, offer refreshments. It won't take long for people to notice.

Service Clubs

Service clubs are often big Scouting supporters. They also have wide-ranging contacts. Why don't you ask if you could visit a club with several youths so the kids can share their enthusiasm and vision for the community?

Last Christmas our Cubs and Scouts worked with the Lions Club to gather food for needy families. We stood outside a busy grocery store and encouraged patrons to donate canned

- Seek opportunities to visit factories or service centers like hospitals, photo labs, cookie manufacturing plants, and cable television studios.
- Tour local attractions.
- Help box and sort cans at a food bank.
- Visit the humane society.
- Attend citizenship ceremonies dressed in full Scouting uniform. Scouting is a vital part of our culture. Let's "wave the flag" by showing new Canadians that this is a Movement they should join.

First impressions are critically important. When out in public places, dress neatly in proper uniform.

items. We had a very visible presence, and hundreds of people saw us and appreciated our work. Will Scouting benefit from this? Of course. Our sections are bursting at the seams with new members.

Get youth members working with service clubs to clean up parks, recycle neighbourhood papers, or even stock a pond with fish. The public does notice these important acts of service.

Get the Public's Attention

Here are some more ideas to raise your group's profile.

- Participate in Remembrance Day ceremonies.
- Adopt a roadway; help clean up roadsides twice yearly. (This will also raise environmental awareness in your group.) Make sure to protect youth members from undue safety risks.
- Participate in community parades and Scout-Guide week activities.
- Get to know newspaper editors and writers, and encourage press coverage of various Scouting events.
- Ask local companies to visit your group, and tell what they do. Examples might include computer companies, a tree farm, a toy manufacturer, a canoe building company, a pet shop.

Be Highly Visible!

First impressions are critically important. When out in public places, dress neatly in proper uniform. If group members look good, they'll feel good. Make sure they're also very polite. Be proud of them and your leadership team.

Long Term Benefits

If your leaders systematically try to raise Scouting's profile, it won't take long before the entire community starts recognizing its vital contributions. Parents, whose children are not enrolled in our programs, will want to register them so they too can experience similar adventures and realize personal development and growth only available through Scouting. It won't take long before you'll have to start new sections. Local membership will soar.

When your town is thoroughly behind you, people will start to look at young people with less suspicion and fear. Instead, they'll notice the many good things they do. They will shed their false impressions and support healthy growth through Scouting. And that's what we all want: positive, happy, confident youth. ^

— Paul Ritchi is Akela with the 7th Thornhill Group, ON.

Fun at the Pond

by Lena Wong

May is a time for fresh air and fun! It's a month to think about our natural environment, summer safety and all sorts of outdoor activities.

MAP MAKING

Powers of observation are very important when making maps — even the simple kind of maps Beavers can create. Observation is also vital when learning to move safely in the neighbourhood, the park or nature areas. By making maps, Beavers will learn to use their observation skills to help them find their way around.

Start making a simple map of the streets near your meeting location or in your neighbourhood. Go for a walk around the area you want to map out. Take note of any landmarks you want to include: a funny shaped tree or bush, a well-known building, an ice cream stand. Draw the main roads, then the side roads leading up to them. Make a square or a cross where your meeting hall is located. If any Beavers or leaders live within the area you're covering, indicate their homes as well.

Fill in the rest of the map by showing where your landmarks are located. Use simple drawings to identify landmarks and buildings, and write street names in clear printing. If you want to get really fancy, draw the symbols in a corner to show what they mean (e.g. an ice cream cone identifies an ice

cream stand). Make sure you involve your Beavers completely, and include as many of their landmarks as possible.

Why not make this a truly useful learning experience? Let Beavers make their own maps using their own symbols to identify landmarks. After making the maps, ask your Beavers to study them closely. Put the maps aside and ask the children what they remember about their maps. Ask them to describe how they can find their way to different locations shown on the maps.

The next time you're in the park or forest, use these same skills to make maps of the trails you're using. Point out to your Beavers how useful it is to notice landmarks wherever they go. Explain that they can always find their way back to their starting point if they use their observations to produce a "mind map."

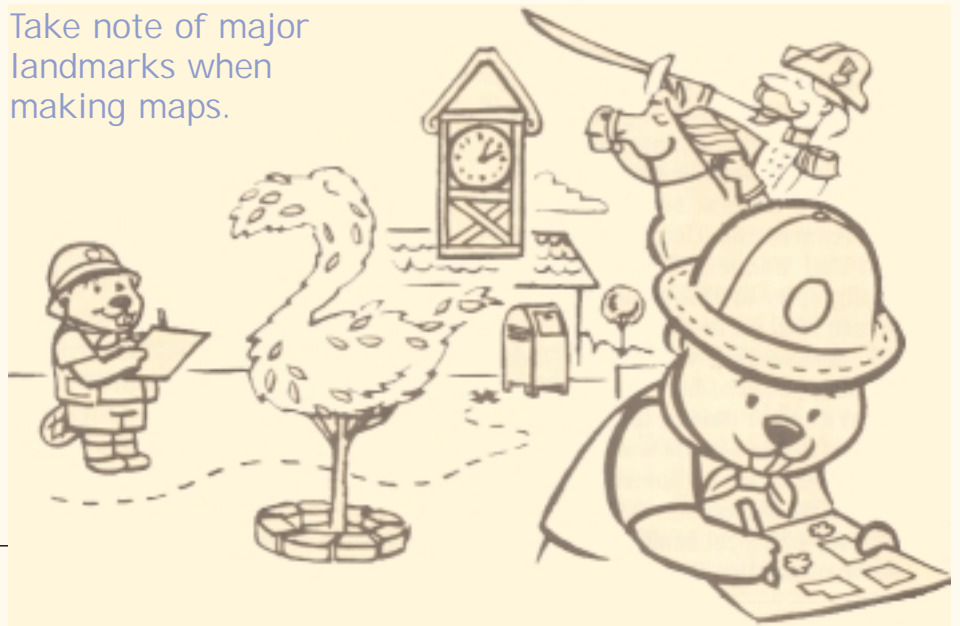


A SPRING BEACH PARTY

It's late spring and time for a beach party. It doesn't matter whether your beach is on the ocean, a lake or a river. What *does* matter is this: don't even think about water activities unless you have plenty of parents who will provide adequate supervision for all Beavers.

Make sure either everyone has rubber boots, or the water is warm enough

Take note of major landmarks when making maps.



to wade in wearing old running shoes. Bring buckets and spades or shovels to increase the activities your Beavers can enjoy. Set up a box or large bucket to collect pebbles, odd shaped stones and neat pieces of driftwood to be taken home for craft projects at a later time. Encourage the Beavers to add their special finds to the bucket.

Skipping Stones

Look for flat or slightly rounded stones, and pile them up in a central area so everyone can try skipping them over the water surface. Throw stones across the water with a sideways twist (like throwing a tiny frisbee) so it skims and bounces across the surface before sinking. Count the number of bounces each stone makes.

Stone Sinkers

Your Beavers can play this individually or in small teams. Find a piece of driftwood and float it in the water. Carefully place small stones and pebbles on the wood, and see how many you can pile on before it sinks.

Sand Creativity

Sand and a stick make great raw materials for sand art. Draw and write creations on the sand. Decorate them with pebbles, twigs, shells and sea weed or other plant materials lying around.

Sand castles are always fun to build. Encourage your Beavers to take on a group project and build a city of castles and canals. Bring figures from home to populate the castles. You might get the Beavers to make miniature flags to decorate the castles.

Before you leave the beach, make sure the area you've been using is cleaned up and left in a better state than you found it. During a rainy day meeting, or even later in the year when you return to Beavering after the summer, make some great crafts from the materials you found on the beach.

Pebble Mosaic

For this craft you need a sturdy backing (cardboard, a piece of driftwood or heavy paper). Draw a design, and glue pebbles, shells, and pieces of wood inside the lines. Encourage your Beavers to place the colours of the materials they use in interesting designs. Make a loop on the backing for hanging.

Shell Collage

Use a piece of cardboard for background and paint it a "beachy colour" (yellow, light blue, light turquoise). Cut



a frame from coloured bristol board or craft paper and glue it on the cardboard. Glue on shells, and whatever bits of nature you find, in an attractive design. Make a loop at the top for hanging.

Driftwood Art

Ask your Beavers to look at a piece of driftwood to determine its use for art. Can it make a good face or an interesting background for a painting or collage? Does it have an unusual shape suggesting some kind of animal, a boat or other shape which can be elaborated on to bring out its hidden potential?

Long twisty pieces of wood can be painted and decorated as snakes or eels. A square or rounded shape can make a great face if decorated with bits of cloth and wool for hair and hats. Pebbles and shells make excellent eyes, noses and mouths. Another piece might suggest the shape of a boat or car, and can be painted and dressed up to complete a dramatic impression.

May is a terrific month filled with many opportunities to make a great Beaver program. Next month we'll explore more outdoor activities and end-of-the-Beaver-year festivities. ^

ENERGY BURNERS



UP THE CREEK WITH A PARTNER

Partners sit on the ground facing each other. To row up the creek, Beavers spread their feet wide and brace against each other, soles against soles. Hold hands, and row with long slow strokes. This will burn off some immediate energy; keep it going until the Beavers get bored.



BULLDOGS

For a simple game of Bulldogs, mark off a rectangular play area with a centre line and safe zones at each end. Select a Beaver bulldog to stand in the centre of the area; other players start at one of the safe zones. At a signal, players run across the play area to the other safe zone trying to avoid being tagged by the bulldog. Players who get tagged become other bulldogs, and stay in the centre trying to tag as many players as possible. The last player to be tagged becomes the next starting bulldog. Any

light touch to the body is a tag. Do not allow any tackling, lifting or shoving.

For variation, make two bulldog areas separated by a centre line. Players will then have to run past two bulldogs to get to a safe area. Tagged players become bulldogs in the area they are tagged.

Bulldogs may hold hands and form a chain, making it increasingly difficult for players to make it across their territory.

Encourage Quality Family Time

by Ross Francis

Quality family time. Even when both parents have flexible work schedules, quality family time is hard to find. It seems everyone is juggling incredibly hectic timetables, regardless of the age. It doesn't matter whether the phenomena is part of our Canadian culture; people just don't have much spare time.

Scouting programs too tend to draw from the shallow pool of time families have to spend together. Yet this time is vital for individuals. It helps them bond and learn to communicate with others — critically important lessons for life. It's time we started identifying opportunities that involve the whole family in Scouting programs. Many families have

children in more than one Scouting program. Let's find ways to involve entire families that have youth spread from Beavers to Rovers.

What about a "Closing Camp"?

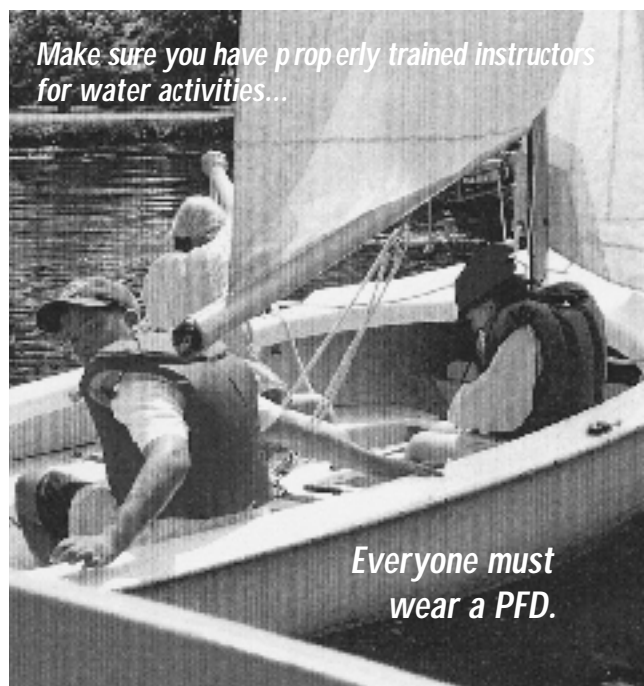
Many activities can involve family members throughout the year, but one is particularly popular at the end of the Scouting year. Some groups call this their "closing camp."

These groups invite youths and families from all sections to attend. It results in a great time for everyone. Closing camps are also an excellent time for Swim-Up (Beavers to Cubs) or Advancement (Cubs to Scouts) ceremonies. What a great time to present badges and awards to the youth in front of their families! It's also a convenient occasion to openly recognize leaders with honours and awards. These are very proud moments for the youth, families and the leaders.

Opportunities Abound!

Holding a family camp provides many chances to expand your program and build parental appreciation. You might even find it proves a superb recruiting tool. Here's how you can organize one, and what it might do for you.

- *Involve your group committee members directly.* Several of them might be looking for a chance to get directly involved with some of the programs. Perhaps they can make the necessary site arrangements. Ask if one or more members would like to provide a meal.



Make sure you have properly trained instructors for water activities...

Everyone must wear a PFD.

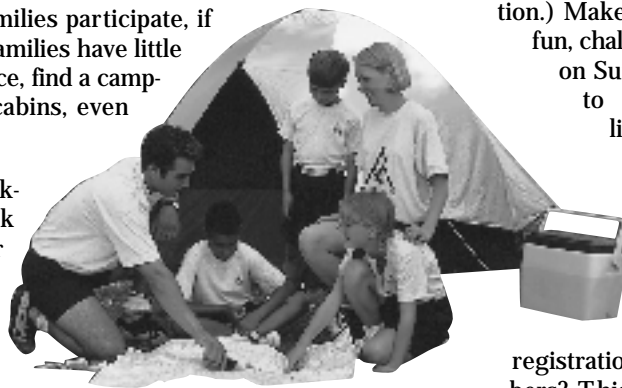
Photos: George Pearce

Family Time *in your Scouting Programs*

- *A family camp can make the leaders' roles much easier.* It will allow them more time to concentrate on the program and ceremonies. With parents and families present, there should be many helpers for running programs and events. But remember: family members will want to spend time with each other. Allow for this. They'll get this valuable bonding time and, for those who want it, have an opportunity to play with others.
- *Show parents how much fun Scouters have.* Don't be afraid of talking about the group's leadership needs. Parents will be very receptive to your words during a family camp as they see the value for their own family members. If you see a recruitment opportunity, take it.
- *Use the family camp as a linking event or to recruit young members into Scouting.* Show them what thrills and challenges await them.
- *Provide quality family time in an outdoor setting.* In some families, this camp may be the only time they spend relaxing together laughing and enjoying each others company.

Helpful Hints for Family Camps

1. Plan the event months in advance, and make sure you keep parents well informed.
2. Parents should provide their own meals and accommodations. Each family should come self contained for the weekend. They might choose to live in a tent or a trailer. This will relieve a lot of planning and work for leaders.
3. If a family doesn't have camp cooking equipment, perhaps the group committee could coordinate "pot luck" meals. Alternatively, families could bring barbecues for cooking.
4. Choose a facility or park close to home. This will let non-camping families participate, if only for a day. If many families have little or no camping experience, find a camping facility that offers cabins, even very rustic ones.
5. When designing a weekend family program, talk to leaders from other sections to identify activities that would excite all ages. Remember: this is a family outing.
6. Make sure you have qualified first aid people and equipment on hand. Accidents may happen at the most unexpected time.
7. If you plan swimming or canoeing programs, have properly trained people to help out.
8. For great camping and program ideas, check out the JUMPSTART packages available at your Scout Shop.
9. During the day on Saturday, senior youth in each section should participate with the group they have been involved in for the past year. At your Saturday evening campfire, plan a ceremony so they can swim-up or advance to their new section. (This will let youth members have Saturday with their old friends as a last farewell; on Sunday they can join new friends in a new section.) Make sure you plan an exciting, fun, challenging day for these youths on Sunday. It'll be a good chance to show them what lies ahead. If they like what they see, they'll join the next section for more Scouting adventure.
10. While you have a captive camp audience, why not organize an early registration for adult and youth members? This is the time to get people to sign up — while they're all still "pumped" with Scouting. An early registration will indicate to your team how large the group will be in the fall.



A well-planned weekend camp makes for more fun.

JUMPSTART Planning Schedules

Here's a rough outline how you can plan a family camping weekend.

Friday Evening

Arrival and set up. Evening campfire and gathering.

Saturday

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>8:00 - 9:00: Family breakfast.</p> <p>9:00 - 9:30: Opening ceremony that helps everyone get to know others through a social game. Ask young members to introduce their families and tell (briefly) their interests.</p> <p>9:30 - 10:30: Family games, relay, sack races, etc.</p> <p>10:30 - 11:30: Family craft, build boats or kites from different materials. See <i>Cub Book</i> for ideas (pp. 138-141). Perhaps this would effectively introduce White Tail Beavers into the Cub program with its many badges.</p> | <p>11:00 - 12:00: Float or fly 'em!</p> <p>12:30 - 1:30: Family lunch.</p> <p>1:30 - 3:00: Family wide game, scavenger hunt, or treasure hunt. Provide clues in codes or puzzles for family members that will direct them to further clues, a treasure map, and then the treasure. Make it fun, challenging and exciting!</p> <p>3:00 - 3:30: Snack break.</p> <p>3:30 - 4:30: Nature hike with interpreter. Invite a park interpreter to guide your hike; make sure you keep the distance fairly short but allow lots of time to explore and learn. White Tails take note: more opportunities to work on badge requirements.</p> |
|--|---|

Your family camp might include a river or lake cruise for the day.



Photo: Albert Fuchigami

Photo: Daphne Davis



When family members spend time enjoying the outdoors, it builds incredibly healthy relationships.

4:30 - 6:30: Barbecue. Bring and cook your own, or plan a giant feast for the entire group.

7:00 - 7:30: Evening game.

7:30 - 8:30: Campfire and presentations: Swim-Up/Advancement ceremony.

Sunday

8:00 - 9:30: Family breakfast.

9:30 - 10:00: Scout's Own.

10:00 - 12:00: Those who moved up, and younger youths wishing to join, may participate with their new group. This is yet another opportunity to show everyone how much fun and adventure Scouting offers.

12:00 - 1:30: Family meal.

1:30 - 2:00: Closing ceremony. Farewell until September.

Scouting Works With Families

With a little creativity and planning you can easily make Scouting into a family affair. Not only will a thoughtful camp program build relationships and communications, it can strengthen the entire group.

Happy camping! ^

Want to Get Published?

Have you experienced a family camp like this? Do you have ideas how to improve it?

Perhaps you have other activities and theme programs that have proved incredibly successful in your district. Share these with us! *We'll do our best to get your name in print.*

Send your best ideas, games and crafts to Ross Francis at Scouts Canada, 1345 Baseline Road, Box 5151, Station LCD-Merivale, Ottawa, Ontario, K2C 3G7. Phone (613) 224-5131; fax (613) 224-3571; e-mail rfrancis@scouts.ca.

CROSS-COUNTRY PHOTOS



BRIDGING NATIONAL BOUNDARIES

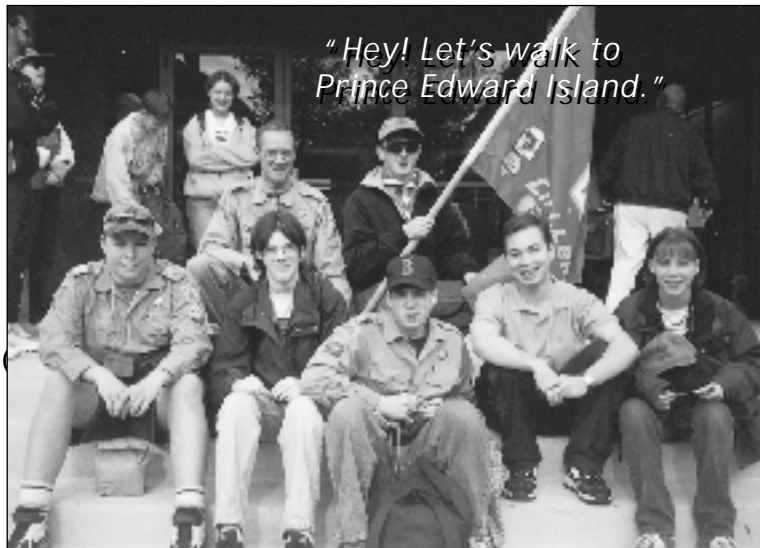
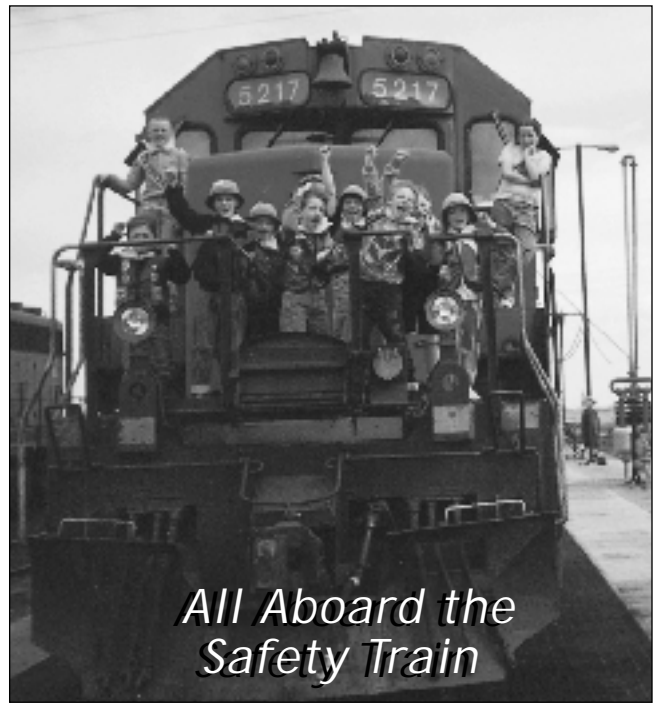
Fifty years ago, Scouting youth on both sides of the Canada-U.S. border met in mid-river on a new international bridge linking Sarnia, Ontario, and Port Huron, Michigan. Last year, Scouts, Beavers, Cubs and Venturers again met on a steel span joining the two cities, but this time on the new Blue Water Bridge. The oldest Canadian participant was celebrating his 80th birthday; he wore his Scout uniform from almost forty years before. The Canadian and American groups met in the middle of the bridge, exchanged flags, handshakes and crests. Photo: Ted Kloske

A Deadly Serious Game of Tag

A tagged Monarch butterfly rested briefly on Tim Warner's CJ97 bush hat before fluttering off toward Mexico. (If you look closely, you'll see the tag on the leading edge of the butterfly's right wing.) Tim, a member of the 24th Kitchener Venturer Company, attended a "butterfly release" at a local Naturium. Each butterfly had been tagged so scientists can study migratory flight patterns. Photo: Murray Fried



Beavers from the 2nd Yorkton Colony in Yorkton, SK, learned about train safety in an unusual way. "We saw a film called *Trains Can't Stop*, toured a locomotive engine, talked to a conductor, rang the bell, even went for a ride," said Scouter Maureen Lukan. By the end of the day every child had a lot more respect for potential dangers posed by trains. (If your group has run a train safety program, tell the **Leader** all about it.)



When teens from the Holy Family Venturer Company in Moncton, NB, heard these words they knew there was one slight "hitch." Thirteen kilometres of icy, grey Atlantic rollers posed a slight obstacle. No other Venturer members — or anyone else — had ever "walked" to PEI. How could they? The opportunity came when the Confederation Bridge was built. Last May the company walked and danced across the Northumberland Strait. "With our Venturer flag flowing above us and our spirits soaring," said Scouter Tom Heath, "the thought of taking part in this historic event spurred us on." The passage took just over two hours. X

Be an Inter-Galactic Enviro Detective

by Ian Mitchell

It's spring. The weather has warmed up, the birds are returning, and the snow has gone. May is when many Scouting programs become environmentally-focused.

What galvanizes our interest and attention?

Perhaps it's the litter we find on the ground, built up over the winter. Perhaps it's the oily puddles on roads near our homes. The evidence of pollution spurs us all on to action.

These projects (taken from "Green Ideas", Redpath Museum, McGill University) are perfect for patrol leaders to use with their Scouts.

Scientists from Outer Space

Your Scouts will use detective skills, while they learn to 'interpret' litter. Garbage can actually tell an interesting story.

Begin by having each Scout collect three pieces of litter from the ground near your meeting area — a local park, school grounds, someone's front yard. Tell your Scouts that they'll use the litter for the next activity, but give no more information. It'll build mystery!

When they return, get the Scouts to spread their litter out on a mat. Now tell your Scouts that each one is a space sci-

entist who has just landed on a strange new planet. The planet is shrouded in impenetrable darkness; further observation or exploration is impossible due to the darkness. Your spaceship's robots have scanned the entire area and have returned carrying only the items before them. These objects prove that life exists on the planet, but you don't know what type of life. Using only the information that the litter provides, draw as many conclusions about this planet's life forms as possible. What do the inhabitants look like? What do they eat and drink? Where do they live? Do they have eyes? How intelligent are they?

For example, if your alien space scientists find a pop can, the discovery could lead to many logical deductions and questions, including:

- What types of metals are used and produced on the planet?
- What shape of hands do the planet's creatures have?
- What types of tools do the creatures use to open cans?

Make sure your Scouts use their imaginations. It's okay to form conclusions or deductions that are logical, yet known to be false. (Everyone should think up one or two of these.) Once the Scouts have finished, get them to present their conclusions to the patrol. Each patrol should choose their funniest and or most logical conclusion to present to the troop.

Afterwards, discuss what archaeologists might learn about our society's garbage in five thousand years. Will generations in the distant future respect us, or hold us in contempt if they could see our garbage?

Activity #2: Oil Spill Cleanup

What problems do oil spills cause?

Your Scouts will soon know the answer.

You'll need pie plates, water, cooking or motor oil, small pieces of cloth, spoons, cotton balls, string, feathers, sawdust, dishwashing detergent, and any other material you think may clean up oil.

Each patrol should half-fill a pie plate with water, then "spill" some oil into it. Using the materials provided, your Scouts should try cleaning up the oil. Let them try soaking up the oil with cloth, cotton balls, or sawdust. Does it scoop up nicely with a spoon or feather? Before each new attempt, get patrol members to predict the success of their next clean-up attempt, and why it might work or fail.

Patrols should discuss these questions at the end of the experiment. Which clean-up method works best? How long did it take? Are some methods completely ineffective? Which ones? Would any of these methods work against a big oil spill in the ocean? What other problems would they face (e.g. tides, currents, fish)?

The new Scout program encourages youths to develop and practise their own "environmental code" after exploring the potential impact of outdoor activities on nature. These activities offer a natural lead-in to this area — perfect for a rainy day at camp. X

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larger pots. It features a compact, collapsing
design for efficient packing and stable
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nylon stuff sack and Green Key™
cartridge puncturing key.

Catalogue No. 56-332



Who's in Your Fall Lineup?

by Bryon Milliere

“I’d give anything to have Eric Lindros on my team!”

Just like general managers of hockey teams, group committee chairs are always recruiting for their leadership teams. Spring is the best time to recruit new members and to renew contracts for the fall. Here’s how to prepare.

Ask your team captains (the senior leaders for each section) to meet with their teams to review the year to date, to make plans for finishing off the year, and to prepare for your next Scouting season. A spring review allows the team a chance to celebrate successes and to resolve any smoldering issues among the team. Unresolved issues (like injuries) can sideline some of your best players. Be positive and consider how you can prevent difficult situations next season.

What can the section and group do to make the year end on a high note — like winning the Stanley Cup? Find creative ways to recognize outstanding performance both on the leadership team and among the youth. Find the heroes in your ranks.

“Leave Scouting? No Way!”

Make it easy (a smooth transition) for young people who move up from one section to another. When children believe the next section will be fun, welcoming, challenging and full of adventure, they’ll choose to stay in Scouting. Many other activities are available to “draft” or “re-enlist” young members. Identify these activities and make sure Beavers, Cubs and Scouts know all about them. In effect, “sell” them on future Scouting adventures.

Get the leadership teams looking forward to an even better year in September. Consider how much the youth

have grown in the program this year and how the program will challenge them to grow further. Try to *introduce new activities* to keep the program interesting for both youth and leaders. Plan some surprises that you know will interest everyone involved.

Get the youth excited about returning. Ask your members (young and old):

- What did you enjoy most about the year?
- What ideas do you have to improve the program?
- What would be on your “wish list” of special activities?

You may be surprised with some of the responses. Incorporate as many of these into your plans, and use these to encourage the youth to return for an even better year.

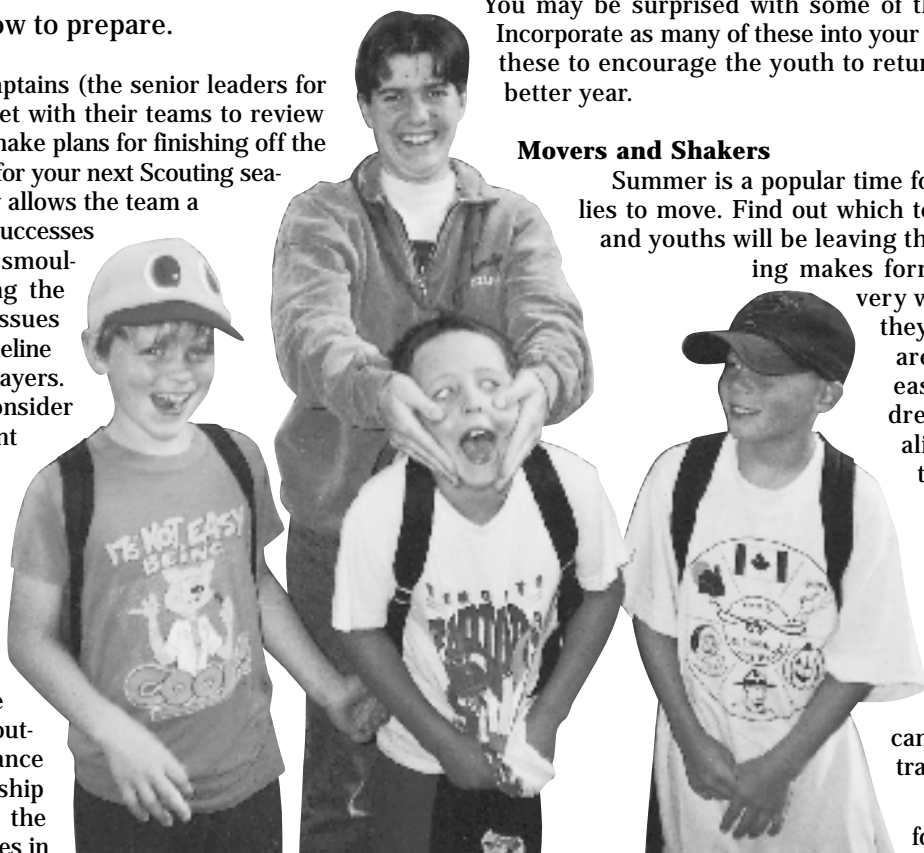
Movers and Shakers

Summer is a popular time for young families to move. Find out which team members and youths will be leaving the area. Scouting makes former members very welcome when they move into an area, making it easier for children and adults alike to adjust to a new community. Young members should take along a copy of their achievement records, and the leaders can bring their training records.

Many parents follow their children as they move from section to section. This is great for the sections receiving leaders, but it creates gaps in the teams losing the members. How can you avoid difficulties?

Talk to your section leaders to determine their plans for the fall. Approach parents who have shown an interest in the program by helping out at events or by filling in at meetings. This year’s camp cook may be next year’s new leader.

Few people actually volunteer themselves onto a team. Most need a little help. We’re in the business of helping people so... ask!



Cubs relate easily to some adults. Find these superstars and sign them up!

Photo: Lauri Cunningham

Who's Your Talent Scout?

Meet the parents of youths in your sections. Group chairs can scout out natural talent at events where parents are invited to participate. These might be Beaverees, parent and child camps, banquets, and Going Up ceremonies.

Watch for parents who interact easily and responsibly with the various age groups. Which parents automatically pitch in and lend a hand, showing a cooperative attitude? These are the potential "superstars" you want on next year's team.

Visit the section meetings. Many parents watch the last ten minutes of the meetings to hear announcements and to ensure that their child gets home safely. These are responsible parents. Parents of older youth may be waiting close by in the parking lot. Introduce yourself and ask how their child is enjoying the program. Explore their willingness to become directly involved in ensuring the continuation and improvement of the program. Offer a variety of interesting opportunities that might best match the prospect's interests, talents and availability.

Before Inviting...

Be sure to discuss the section's needs with your various leadership teams before extending invitations to any possible new recruit. Getting your fall lineup in place is a team effort.

A great hockey team takes time, effort and planning to acquire, but once you have one, the payoff will be obvious and immediate. Leaders will enjoy the program as much as the youth.

Go on! Begin the fall season on a winning streak. Do this by preparing now. X

Five Steps to Better Recruiting and Improved Programs

If you want a vital Scouting program with lots of adult leaders and enthusiastic youth members, follow these tips.

- Ask what the sections and group can do to make the year end on a very high note.
- Find creative ways to recognize exceptional leaders and youth. Identify heroes in your rank and publicly thank them.
- Introduce new ideas and activities to keep programs fresh. Plan some unusual surprises!
- Seek parents who interact easily and responsibly with youth. Which ones pitch in rapidly and have a helpful, cooperative attitude? These are the superstars you need on your team.
- Identify a "Talent Scout" in your ranks: someone who knows the program and section needs, and has an easy conversational style with people.



For Service to Scouting

compiled by Cheryl Dinelle

We are pleased to announce in this issue the names of people in Scouting who have been recognized for gallantry and service between August 31, 1997 and March 6, 1998. We will announce awards made after March 6, 1998 in a fall issue of **the Leader**.

AWARD FOR FORTITUDE

(for perseverance despite physical or mental impediments)

Daniel Bailie, Etobicoke, ON
Peter Duchesne, Ottawa, ON
Neil MacInnis, Camrose, AB
Paul Painchaud, Calgary, AB

DBC AD,
PICK-UP
PG.31, APR '98

CERTIFICATE FOR MERITORIOUS CONDUCT

(for meritorious conduct worthy of recorded commendation)

Craig Armstrong, Gravenhurst, ON
Lucas Bushell, Oyama, BC
Brenda Calma, Kitchener, ON
Michael Campbell, Thamesville, ON
Brenden Christensen, Standard, AB
Fraser Christensen, Standard, AB
William Cook, Riverview, NB
Karen Currie, Surrey, BC
Charles Denison, London, ON
John Edwards, Bracebridge, ON
Marc Faubion, Standard, AB
Philip Faubion, Standard, AB
Ryan Franklin, Bowser, BC
Christina Gordon, Libau, MB
Derek Harms, Standard, AB
Daniel Hudson, Standard, AB
Aaron Krabsen, Standard, AB
Dustin Larsen, Standard, AB
Kyle Laycock, Standard, AB
Derrick MacNabb, Alouette, QC
Mark Madill, Borden, ON
Sheila McNiece, Gravenhurst, ON
Jeff Melvin, Moncton, NB
Michael Pembleton, London, ON
Christopher Randle, Stroud, ON
David Randle, Stroud, ON
Louise Stewart, Gravenhurst, ON
Cathy Traverse, Creemore, ON
Joshua Ulla, Newport, NS
Charles Wood, Riverview, NB

BAR TO SILVER ACORN

(for further especially distinguished service to Scouting)

Grace Belzner, Calgary, AB
Barbara Cotterill, Calgary, AB
Thomas Furlong, St. John's, NF
Robert Laughton, Ottawa, ON
Vaughan MacDonald, Clarendville, NF
Charles Nash, West Vancouver, BC
Gordon Ritchings, Vernon, BC
Donald Sanford, Dartmouth, NS
Arthur Wood, Etobicoke, ON

SILVER ACORN

(for especially distinguished service to Scouting)

Robert Brown, Riverview, NB
Dave Cameron, Berwick, NS
George Couturier, Vernon, BC

Maxine Easthope, Calgary, AB
Elmer Frank, Edmonton, AB
Warren Law, Chomedy-Laval, QC
Jim McGrath, St. John's, NF
Ed Morrissey, Port Moody, BC
Greg Nicholson, Richmond, BC
Walter Scholtis, Kitchener, ON
Alan Steeves, Riverview, NB
Mel Tupper, Langley, BC
Herbert Wyman, Calgary, BC

BAR TO MEDAL OF MERIT

(for further especially good service to Scouting)

Ken Abramson, Abbotsford, BC
Harry Brezina, Kitchener, ON
Gerald Champliss, Boutilliers Pt., NS
Heather Chilvers, Manotick, ON
Wilburn Cowan, Manotick, ON
Mary Derrah, Fredericton, NB
Herb Franklin, Peterborough, ON
Bob Hickson, Orleans, ON
James Murphy, Halifax, NS
Lloyd Nyland, East Waterloo, ON
Ivan Omer, Kitchener, ON
Brian Rottenfusser, Devon, AB
Gary Thurston, Amherst, NS
Bruce Underwood, Kitchener, ON
Douglas Watson, North York, ON
Darlene Weir, Waterloo, ON
Peter Wilson, Manotick, ON
Josephine Wright, Etobicoke, ON
Raymond Yule, Leduc, AB

MEDAL OF MERIT

(for especially good service to Scouting)

Dennis Allibon, Sutton West, ON
Harry Anderson, Orangeville, ON
Susann Anderson, Brampton, ON
Austin Anthony, St. John's, NF
Hollie Archer, Stratford, ON
David Armstrong, Calgary, AB
Bilal Baalbaki, Ottawa, ON
William Bean, Kitchener, ON
Lochie Bell, Abbotsford, BC
Emmy Bennett, Delta, BC
Allan Bentley, Coquitlam, BC
Linda Bentley, Coquitlam, BC
Gordon Billard,

Frenchman's Cove, NF
Walter Bond, Prince George, BC
Dora Bonner, Winnipeg, MB
Mary Cameron, Trenton, ON
David Coleman, Chilliwack, BC
Patricia Collette, Trenton, ON

Paul Cook, Manuels, NF
 George Corbett, Beausejour, MB
 Donald Craig, Baden, ON
 Claude Doucet, Eel River, NB
 Bruce Doucette, Yarmouth Co., NS
 Len Dudley, North Vancouver, BC
 Carol Frost, Dawson Creek, BC
 Vilhjalmur Goodman, Trenton, ON
 Lyle Gustafson, Devon, AB
 Mary Isidoro, Houston, BC
 Karen Kehoe, Prince George, BC
 Gordon Kenwell, Edmonton, AB
 Raymond King, Victoria, BC
 John Knock, Yarmouth, NS
 Robert Kuhl, Ayr, ON
 Donald Leach, Delta, BC
 Tony Lobmeier, Duncan, BC

Eric Lotz, Coquitlam, BC
 Barry Lystiuk, Nepean, ON
 Ian MacCalder, Orangedale, NS
 Ralph MacEachern, Toronto, ON
 Ralph Marrayatt, Abbotsford, BC
 Anne Matte, Azilda, ON
 Mary McCarrroll, Dundalk, ON
 Vi McCarty, Biggar, SK
 Ellen McDowell, Nepean, ON
 James McGeary, Saskatoon, SK
 Elizabeth Middleton, Calgary, AB
 Ken Middleton, Calgary, AB
 Norman Mitson, Kitchener, ON
 Alan Mooney, Victoria, BC
 Josephine O'Connor,
 Prince Rupert, BC
 Jonathan Pearce, Waterloo, ON

Carl Pitman, Stirling, ON
 Micah Price, Summerland, BC
 Irene Randall, Niagara Falls, ON
 Douglas Reid, Lower Sackville, NS
 Douglas Rowlands, Fergus, ON
 Craig Sabey, Calgary, AB
 Carol Setchell, Saskatoon, SK
 Margaret Shepherd, Ladysmith, BC
 Anthony Skells, Waterloo, ON
 Marc St. Pierre, Brossard, QC
 Harry Taylor, Delta, BC
 Robert Taylor, Toronto, ON
 Lawrence Tonita, Yarmouth, NS
 Ken Van Someren, Red Deer, AB
 Bradley Volk, Calgary, AB
 David Warner, Yarmouth, NS
 Don Zarnke, New Hamburg, ON

Is your Rover Crew looking for something really different? Is it looking for true excitement?

The 10th Asia/Pacific/14th Australian National Moot is the perfect solution!

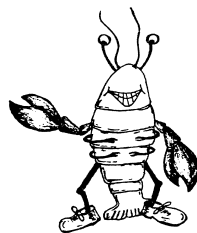
Imagine 10 days of fun and excitement "down under" with 500 Rovers who've gathered from all over Australia and the Asia/Pacific region.

The Canadian Contingent is now accepting applications from 18- to 26-year-old members of the Canadian Scout and Guide Movements to attend this sensational event. Staff applications for those 18 and over are also available.

What? When? Where?

The Moot will run from December 29, 1998 to January 7, 1999 at the Mafeking Rover Park. (It's about an hour north of Melbourne.) This 10-day event includes a four-

Ready for the Australian Rover Moot?



Visit the Moot web site at: www.yeamoot.net.au.

The 10th Asia/Pacific/14th Australian National Moot. See you there!

day, off-site expedition, and numerous half- and full-day activities.

Go rock climbing, water skiing, riding, white water rafting, four wheel driving, canoeing, mountain biking, hiking, and more.

The Moot costs \$525 (Australian dollars), plus an expedition fee ranging from \$100-\$400 (Australian dollars), plus the Canadian Contingent fee of \$140. Moot fees cover all food and accommodation at the Moot, plus most activities. Participants are responsible for their own transportation to and from the event.

Want more information or a registration form? Contact Marc Ramsay (contingent leader) at #309 - 1238 Seymour Street, Vancouver, BC, V6B 6J3. Phone: (604)844-7547. E-mail: marc_ramsay@ihermes.com.

CANADIAN ROVER MOOT CANCELLED

The Canadian Rover Moot, planned for this summer in Nova Scotia, has been cancelled. Too few people registered for it.

If you still want to experience the excitement of a Scouting moot, why don't you check out the Rover moot in Australia? It's bound to be spectacular!

Pen Friends



Britain

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

Canada

My name is Mj Reaume. My buddy Nick and I are Cubs with the 87th Pack in North Bay, Ontario. I'd like to make

friends with several Cubs in other provinces so I can finish my Heritage Badge. If you'd like to write, here's my e-mail address: reaumem@sympatico.ca.

Slovak Republic

My name is Lukas Rucka. I head up a Sea Scout troop in Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia. Our country has only one (1) Sea Scout group. We need help! We don't have much information on how to run interesting programs. Please, contact me at my e-mail address if you can help in any way. My address is: ivru@netax.sk. Our organizational e-mail address is: slovakia@scout.net. Our Sea Scout web page is: www.changenet.sk/scouting/.

Panama

I would really love a Canadian pen pal so I can learn about Canada and the fun things you do in Scouting. If you'd like to write, here's my address: Rogelio Bustamante, Zone 11, San Miguelito, Panama, Republic of Panama, Central America.

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.

Looking Back... Looking Ahead

by Rob Stewart

IT'S LATE SPRING: THAT TIME OF YEAR when we begin to wind down from a hectic weekly schedule to a more leisurely pace of meetings interspersed with special events, camps, and year-end barbecues.

But it can, and should, be a very productive time for commissioners and service teams as they plan for fall. Late spring is the best time to review the year, and identify changes to help make the next Scouting year a success.

Many group committees begin planning for September by finding out exactly which leaders will be returning in the fall. Why don't you conduct registration nights in May and June? It'll give you a head start in the fall.

Service teams and trainers should seek feedback from section leadership teams. Now is the time to discover ways to improve everyone's program delivery. Training teams will find Service Scouters a valuable resource; they can identify the training needs of returning Scouters, and evaluate the effectiveness of past training programs.

Speak to the section Scouters and get their feedback. Here are some questions to start a discussion.

- Did you participate in any training events during the past year? If yes, which ones, if no, why not?
- What skills and knowledge did you acquire from these sessions? Did they help you in your job?
- What unnecessary information did they provide?
- Did you receive any on-the-job training? If so, how did this compare to formal training?
- Did the Service Team give you effective help this year?
- If a Service Scouter visited your section, did he or she help you become a better leader?

Now what?

Training teams should review the answers section Scouters give, and try to find similarities in the responses. This will help them design truly effective training programs.

Late spring really is the best time to look *back* so you're prepared to move *ahead*. Take time now to gather feedback from your experienced leadership team. It'll make your fall program much more exciting. ^

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The first two-burner stove designed for backpacking and lightweight trekking. The burners operate independently of one another and are fully adjustable. A pot can simmer on one burner, while a second pot boils on the other. The stove weighs only 710 g, yet puts out 20,000 BTU total. Includes a nylon stuff sack and Green Key™ cartridge puncturing key.



Catalogue No. 56-330

Danielle Cicco: A Local Hero

by Phil Cruickshank.

Scouting has many "local heroes" who save groups from folding. Danielle Cicco is one of these heroes.

Four years ago, Danielle asked me to become a Beaver leader because a colony of eight children was about to lose one of its two Scouters. If no one else volunteered, the Beaver program might have ended in December. I completed the year, and then received additional training, at Danielle's prompting. The following year Danielle recruited two more leaders for the colony. With the extra leaders, the colony really thrived. Soon it grew to 20 Beavers and five leaders. Everyone worked together well. This local success story occurred in an area where other sections were in deep trouble with leadership and membership difficulties.

Problem-Tamer Extraordinaire

If Danielle hadn't interested me and other colony leaders in the program, there's a strong possibility the 75th Malton Beaver Colony wouldn't exist today. Her active and enthusiastic leadership abilities are truly extraordinary!

Danielle is a caring and dedicated hero, who repeatedly gives so others can enjoy Scouting's outstanding programs.

— Phil Cruickshank is a Beaver leader from Malton, ON. Danielle Cicco currently chairs the 75th Malton Group Committee.

SCOUTER'S 5

Don't Miss the Blessings!

- The following could make an excellent meeting closing. Scout troops or Venturer companies might want to use it to launch an interesting discussion on spirituality. How can you tie it into badge work? Ask your spiritual advisor to lead it.

- *Leader:* Along the way, we miss many blessings because we aren't looking for them. Sometimes, they're 'invisible' because they aren't what we expect to see. These blessings go unnoticed, like the ground and rock and grass.

All: Forgive us, Father God, for the many wonders we ignore in our haste. Forgive us for not attributing them to You. Give us better vision.

- *Leader:* Along the way, we ignore many things we expect will last forever, like the sand (until time or carelessness erode it away), or the earth (until waste and abuse poison its life).

All: Forgive us, Father God, for mishandling and exploiting the fragile earth. We have taken your Creation for granted and spoiled so much of it.

- *Leader:* Along the way, Jesus appears to us many times in the form of hurting strangers, hungry street people, and others who are desperate for a kind word or even a simple smile. Let us seek these people

continued...

Scouter's Five Minutes

May '98

HINTS

Care for Your Feet

- Before heading out on a long hike through the forest, you have to consider more than just lightweight equipment, no-trace camping and dehydrated food. Spend some quality time talking about your chief mode of transportation — your feet. If they don't feel good at the end of the day, it could ruin your entire trip. Here are some tips to keep them happy.

Boots

- 1. Get good boots that are as light as possible; light boots will conserve your energy. Some experts say that one kilogram on your feet is as difficult to carry as five kilograms on your back.
- 2. Wear your boots in well before a significant hike. Treat boots with a softening agent to prevent them from going hard. *Neatsoft Oil* is good for all-leather boots.
- 3. Excellent boots lead to a good hike, but don't overemphasize their importance and exclude everything else. Foot preparations, socks, foot hygiene and frequent inspections are equally important.



Foot Preparation

- 1. Trim your toenails well before hiking. This will prevent ingrowing or long nails from rubbing against soft skin.
- 2. Get in shape before hiking. Taking long walks around your neighbourhood will toughen up soft foot skin — a good way to lessen the chances of blisters.

continued...

Hints

May '98

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Socks

1. Wear two pairs of socks: wool and synthetic. Thin liners will help wick perspiration to outer layers, while thicker socks will cushion and insulate your feet. Also, these socks will reduce the friction in your boot and cut down heat build-up.
2. Socks shouldn't be too thick (leading to squashed feet) or too thin (too much foot movement in a boot leads to blisters).
3. Always remove socks during major rest breaks, or at least once a day. This will allow your feet to cool off and dry in the air.



Foot Hygiene and Inspections

1. Wash your feet every day, but dry them completely and apply foot talc before putting them back into a boot. You might even want to give them a soothing message.
2. While you have your socks off, inspect your feet for developing problems.
3. If you feel a hot spot during your hike, treat it before it turns into a blister. Use moleskin, Band-aids™ or even duct tape.
4. Keep feet dry. This might be difficult during a strenuous trip, but wet or very sweaty feet blister much quicker than dry ones.

Your feet are too important to treat as a mere after-thought. A little preparation will keep you on the trail longer.

Hints

out, spend ourselves serving them, and offer worship to our Heavenly Father in this way.

All: Forgive us, Father God, for those 'invisible' people we have passed by without a care for them. Fill our hearts with compassion. These are our very brothers and sisters we ignore. Help open our eyes to their plight, as an act of devotion to You.

Leader: Whatever we give to others becomes a gift to our God. Our Father appears in the love we spend on those around us.

All: Come! Let us spend our energy and our time helping to better the lives of others.

Leader: I have a question that means life and death to us all. Here it is: What does the Lord God require of us?

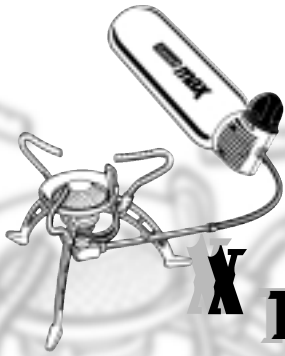
All: The Lord asks that we act justly toward others, that we love mercy (undeserved kindness to others), and that we walk humbly before our God.

Leader: Let us take up this challenge.

— Adapted from a prayer by Ed Bentley (United Church of Canada).

Scouter's Five Minutes

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IN THE MARKET

Lasting Memories

by Ben Kruser

May is when many sections hold late spring camps; these camps often feature Beaver Swim-Up and Cub Going Up ceremonies. For these children in particular, treasured keepsakes can help capture Scouting memories for years to come. These keepsakes become even more important if the child actually makes them. Here are some ideas for keepsake activities you can plan for a meeting or camp.

Lanyards and Bracelets

Craft lace is ideal for making lanyards for holding whistles or compasses. Also known as "gimp," this plastic lace is easy for most small fingers to manoeuvre; it comes in a variety of colours that offer personal choice. Most craft stores charge by the yard, which can end up costing \$50 - \$100 for a single spool! Your Scout Shop sells 100 yard spools of craft lace for *under \$4.00*.

Why not pick up a number of different coloured spools and share them between sections? Perhaps you can think of some interesting linking event 'tied' into making lace lanyards or bracelets.



Some children may prefer to make multistrand bracelets. Add pizzazz to your craft lace project with multicoloured beads; we've got 10 different Pony Bead color packs! These projects are not only functional and memorable, but guaranteed to be "cool" with your youth.

Wooden Craft Sticks

These are simply popsicle sticks, minus the popsicle, naturally! In a flash, Beavers or Cubs can turn craft sticks and white glue into a wide assortment of simple projects, including picture frames and planters — whatever a child's imagination can conceive. Your Scout Shop carries boxes of 1000 craft sticks for just \$4.50. It's a terrific, inexpensive craft item.

Why not go to a local garden store and buy small clay pots, some inexpensive annuals, potting soil, and pots? Get your Beavers or Cubs to glue their wooden craft sticks together into a log cabin so the clay pot sits in the middle. Add soil and plants, and you've got a perfect indoor planter. When the kids come back in the fall, give them some crocus bulbs which have been prepared ahead for indoor "forcing." By early December, you should have beautiful blooms to brighten the winter gloom.

Kub Kar Kamp

Who says you can only make Kub Kars once a year? Kids never get tired of making models. Bring the kits to camp for a special Kub Kar clinic without the pressure to compete in local run-offs. It'll be just good building fun. Bring lots of recycled material to make into car parts. Or use the kit to make dragsters, batmobiles or space buggies. A Kub Kar is one of the most treasured items of any Scouting youth. X