

the leader

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 1998

VOLUME 29, NO. 1

Awesome Autumn!



JEWISH THANKSGIVING • SOURDOUGH RENDEZVOUS • BIG TIMES

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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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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 photographs:
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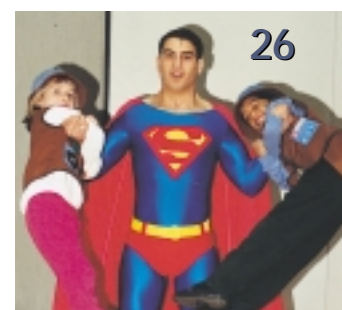
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SOURDOUGH RENDEZVOUS



IN THE KLONDIKE VALLEY

by Greg Byron, Margaret Keith, Dave Morningstar

IN 1898, 30,000 gold stampedeers from around the world raced for the Yukon's fabled Klondike Valley where reporters said gold lay thick on the ground.

After packing over the Chilkoot Pass, they built rafts and boats on Bennett Lake, and paddled down the Yukon River to collect their fortunes. Unfortunately, by the time most

arrived, the golden creek beds were already staked.

Ignite the Klondike excitement in your youth by setting the scene with vivid stories of miner exploits. Pierre Berton's book, *Klondike*, and Robert Service poems are rich in images. Read these during meals, snacks or around campfires.

Gold Pokes

When Greg Byron's group arrived at camp, they started their program by making leather pokes (small leather bags used to hold gold dust). Leather pouch kits are available through Tandy Leather, or you might make yours from cloth or paper. Then, because miners had to carry enough food and equipment with them to last a year in the northern wilds, Greg's Cubs sliced up apples and other fruit to dry. (If you do this activity prior to the camp, Cubs or Scouts can use this food during the weekend.)

Chilkoot Pass Relay Climb

Before riding the Yukon River down to the Klondike gold fields, miners had to hike over the rugged Chilkoot Pass carrying all their food and supplies.

Set up a short hiking trail on a steep (but safe) path. Break up into sixes or patrols. Give each group a backpack and a number of identical items that a miner might have to pack over the Chilkoot. At the bottom of the hill, each member must race against other teams to put all the items in the pack, then carry it to the top of the hill and back, where it's all

unpacked waiting for the next team member.

Make this more difficult for older youth by giving extra points to those who put items in the pack in their proper order. (Objects needed most frequently would be put at the top.)

Make a Paddlewheeler

At the top of the Chilkoot, miners had to build boats to get down the Yukon River — an 900 km trip. They whip-sawed logs into planks, then hammered these into boats. If your group can borrow whip-saws, organize a log-cutting competition.

Cubs and Scouts would enjoy making model boats (like paddlewheelers or canoes or rafts) from popsicle sticks. Their designs can be as elaborate as they wish. Some youths might want to carve their boats from a solid piece of wood. Be sure to have colourful paint to decorate these models.

Pioneering Projects

Klondike miners had to be pretty self-sufficient in the northern Yukon wilderness. In the depth of winter they created all sorts of useful camp items from branches and rope.

Make cardboard canoes so Beavers can race them around Yukon River rapids.



Photo: Wendy Evert

Scouting youth from the 27th Niagara Troop, ON, started their camp late one afternoon by setting up lean-tos with tarps stretched over them. This activity lasted until supper. Youths had to use at least five different types of knots for their wilderness home. After supper, everyone worked on other pioneering projects to make camp life easier: tables, chairs and pot driers.

Why not set up stations so your members can learn how to make rope, spinning top toys, and other useful games to ward off the effects of "cabin fever"?

Mad Rush to Stake A Claim

Before taking part in this exciting race, tell Cubs and Scouts how miners had to stake a claim by sticking a large stick in the ground with their name on it where they wanted to pan for gold.

Set up an obstacle course following trail signs (see *Field-book* for examples). Find as many ways as possible to tie this race into badge work. Working in teams, your miners have to work their way through an obstacle course that ends at a river or creek; name it "the River of Gold." Give each team a ribbon marked, "This Claim Is Staked!" Make sure your obstacle course includes knot-tying, compass use, team problem solving, and other Scouting activities.

Gold Panning and Spending

After teams stake their claims, they have to rush to a Claim Staking Office (tent) to register. Here, give each member a wash basin, and set up several children's swimming pools filled with water so everyone can try panning for gold (rocks painted a gold colour). Find a geologist in your area to explain the difference between "placer" and "hard rock" mining. He might even demonstrate panning.

To pan for gold, put 6-8 cm of sand and several handfuls of gold nuggets in the bottom of the water-filled pools. Because gold is heavier than sand or gravel it always remains in the bottom of a pan. Scoop up some sand and water in a pan, swirl it all around for several seconds so most of the water and sand leaves the pan. Only gold should remain.

Why not set up a mini-Dawson City gold town to let your miners spend their gold nuggets? Set up skill-testing activities (bean tosses, refreshment

stand, etc.). Your Klondike Cubs have to use their gold to take part in a game or get a cookie.



Swirl a bit of water and gravel around in the pan and what do you get? Rich! Well... it's not guaranteed.

Photo: Allen Macartney

Good Soup Skit

For this skit you'll need a large pot, several wooden spoons, a floor mop and a chef's hat. Adapt a number of skits to a Klondike miner theme, then set up a Vaudeville show to provide entertainment around the campfire.

Narrator: (This skit takes place in a Klondike dining hall. Several youths are seated around a large pot, sampling the imaginary contents with their wooden spoons.)

Scott: "This is amazing soup. Fantastic!"

Brad: "Yep. It has a real Yukon gold miner's flavour."



A sluice box like this one helps separate the gravel from the gold. Then it's simple to find the nuggets.

Photo: Allen Macartney

David: "Sure does. It'll stick to yer ribs, this will. It's even better than my Mom's soup back home."

Matthew: "I love that strange spice. What is it anyway?"

Cook: (Enters waving a floor mop and shouting.) "Hey you miners! Get out of my mop water!"

Klondike Puppet

Puppets will help give your Beavers the gold rush feeling. Use small paper bags, brown construction paper (hat), aluminum foil (gold pan) and cotton (beard). Ask several Beavers with theatrical talents if they would like to make up a short play with their puppets. Try to include their "sharing" motto in the play. (See diagram p.6)

Build and Light the Campfire Race

In bitter northern latitudes, a campfire sometimes spelled the difference between life and death. The trick was to light it quickly and efficiently.

Line your Cubs up in sixes. Give each an assortment of kindling, sticks and larger pieces of wood. On a signal, each six has to build a fire properly and light it. Start with a simple teepee fire, then progress to log cabin fires and top-lit fires.

Wooden Spoon Carve-Off

Older Beavers, Cubs and Scouts from the 3rd South Peace Group in Farminton, BC, carved spoons and other utensils at a Klondike camp. Here's how to make yours.

Pass out thin strips of wood (3 cm x 1 cm x 18 cm) to Cubs. Tell them that sometimes Klondike miners had

to make their own eating utensils from wood. Get them to carve a spoon and perhaps a fork from wood.

Do this craft only after a leader carefully explains the use of pocketknives. Make up a short course for Cubs, and tie it into earning a pocketknife permit. (See January '98 *Paksak* column for more details.)

Other Ideas

Many Scouting activities fit this theme:

- ✓ practise tracking and camouflaging techniques.
- ✓ build survival shelters,
- ✓ set up a wheelbarrow racing course. (Miners used wheelbarrows to carry gold-bearing gravel.)
- ✓ organize a Klondike crest design competition,



"Hold it! Let's start again. When I pull, you push."

Photo: Allen Macartney

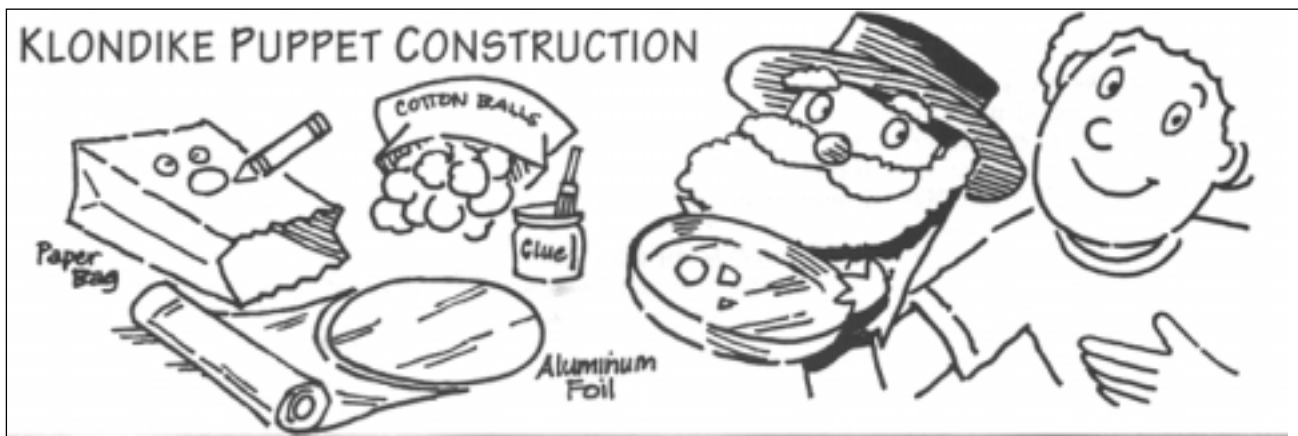
Klondike miners didn't have flashlights. Why not ban flashlights (except for emergencies) and carry out evening programs in the dark, or using only candles? "It was great fun after our eyes grew accustomed to the dark," said Niagara Scouter Dave Morningstar.

— *Greg Byron enthusiastically leads his group on Klondike adventures. Margaret Keith makes bannock with Scouting youth in the 3rd South Peace Group. Sourdough Dave Morningstar raced to the gold field from his home in Farmington, BC.*

Adventure and action. These are two things all youth crave. A Klondike Gold Rush theme provides many opportunities to satisfy that craving. λ

Program Links

- Cubs: Handicraft Badge, Green Star, Tawny Star, Trailcraft Badge, Canadian Camper Award, Entertainer Badge.
 Scouts: Handicraft Badge, Voyageur Outdoor Award, Performing Arts Badge.



More Klondike Ideas

Looking for more Klondike Gold Rush ideas? Check out the lead feature piece in the January '98 **Leader** entitled, "Gold Rush Fever!"

Safe Canoeing Quiz

In their excitement to get to the gold, most Klondike miners ignored all rules of safe water travel. This quiz will help prepare your paddlers for unexpected hazards. Get your Cubs and Scouts to add more questions, including multiple choice ones. After each question, discuss how to react to the danger.

- T ___ F ___ You can get hypothermia in summer if you're cold and wet. (T)
- T ___ F ___ There's no need to buckle up your PFD. (F)
- T ___ F ___ It's okay to overload a canoe as long as you are within 20 metres of shore. (F)
- T ___ F ___ Paddlers should kneel in a canoe and not move around without warning others beforehand. (T)
- T ___ F ___ When choosing a paddle, put the butt on the ground. The tip should come up to the level of your nose. (T)
- T ___ F ___ If your canoe tips, stay with it. (T)
- T ___ F ___ Every canoe needs a throwing line and a bailer. (T)
- T ___ F ___ Each PFD should have a whistle attached to it for signalling in case of an emergency. (T)

Canadian Centennial Trail Endurance Test

from 1st Port Moody Venturers

Venturers from the 1st Port Moody Company in BC wanted a real challenge — something that would push them beyond anything they had ever attempted before. But it had to be safe. After several months of looking, they chose a 135-km hiking trip along parts of the Canadian Centennial Trail in BC.

Unpredictable mountain weather, ranging from 30°C to less than -10°C, made travelling difficult. So did the isolated mountain trails, blazing hot sun, rain, snow and the hot/cold winds. The trek earned them third place honours in the 1996 Amory Adventure Awards.

This trip wasn't going to be easy. To prepare, we conducted frequent weekend hikes in good weather and bad, carrying full gear. The trails ranged from walks over rolling hills to steep climbs along narrow paths.

These hikes also provided opportunities to test out new recipes for our high energy menu. All food had to be light, packed full of calories, and tasty. As the date for our Centennial Trail trip neared, we finalized our food list, dehydrated some meats, and stuffed it all into our packs. The average backpack weighed 20 kg. Perfect!

Hit the Trail!

On July 13 we drove to Manning Park, BC, unloaded our gear and set out.

"Bridge Washed Out!" This sign greeted us within minutes of heading out. Though the river was quite narrow, the icy run-off from a nearby mountain concerned us. We successfully crossed the stream by unstrapping our packs, using hiking sticks to steady our feet in the fast-flowing water, and holding on to a rope strung across the water.

Several hours later, we stopped for lunch beside a stream. As we rested, a mountain biker raced by, heading up to the summit where he could see a straight line cut through the forest: the Canada-U.S. border. This was our destination too.

Ten minutes later everyone got up and followed the ascending serpentine path. Hours later, after having crested the top of a steep grade, we saw two fire towers which stood sentinel over a spectacular mountain scene. Amazing!

Pitching our tents nearby (surrounded by hordes of mosquitoes) we whipped up a delicious meal of chicken noodle soup and chocolate pudding. The bugs seemed to love it too; they kept flying into it. This merely added to our protein and calorie intake.

Exploding Suppers

Shortly after setting out next day, 14-year-old Kyle Skidmore's nose started bleeding heavily — a victim of the high altitude and dry air. After stemming the flow, our group continued down the overgrown sloping trail until the sound of a racing river thundered in our ears. The Pasayten River proved a real water obstacle. It took four hours of innovation, panic and finally

victory before we all forded the river safely.

To buoy our spirits and replenish fading energy levels, we fired up our stoves and prepared a feast: parmesan noodles with ground beef. Yum! Several Venturers made single portion chocolate pudding to top off their meal. It wasn't completely satisfying for everyone. Sean didn't seal his ziploc bag before vigorously shaking up the volatile mixture. With an impressive *BOOM!* it burst all over. We sympathized with him, then filled up our water bottles and headed off down an abandoned railway track.

Night Hiking: Avoid It

The fast-flowing river had slowed our progress so much that we decided to continue hiking at night. Hikes after dark are safe as long as you know the area well and have taken proper precautions, but our path lay through a place ravaged by forest fire. Despite plenty of charred logs blocking the path, we made great speed over the uneven terrain.

The air was cool, but the night was inky dark — too dark for safety. Within two hours we set up tents and slid into our sleeping bags.

Over the next days we followed the trail as it wound above the tree line, over rocks, along precipitous drop-offs and back down to our cars. Snow storms, heavy rain, and clouds of mosquitoes made the trip 'interesting' for everyone.

The hiking trip really knit the 1st Port Moody Venturers together. Our friendships not only survived, but flourished! ^

From high winds atop the mountains, to rain-drenched 22km hikes through the woods, the Venturers passed their endurance test with teamwork and good preparation.

Photo: 1st Port Moody Venturers



Sukkot:

Come Celebrate this Jewish Thanksgiving!

by Howard Osterer

Fall is a time for harvests, feasting and thanksgiving. For thousands of years, Jewish people have paused in this season and looked around to appreciate their blessings. They call the celebration Sukkot.

Like the Pilgrim's Thanksgiving, Sukkot is a time filled with thankfulness to God for His generosity. Jewish people use the holiday for helping others, seeking forgiveness, and celebrating life.

What is Sukkot?

The week-long festival comes from a Hebrew word meaning "booths." During harvest time, Jewish farmers used to build tiny shelters in their fields. They slept in these huts so they could begin the harvest as soon as the sun rose. Israelite people also lived in make-shift booths (or "sukkahs") for 40 years while they were wandering in the desert after Moses freed them from slavery.

A sukkah has four walls and a roof. It's a temporary shelter with branches and open spaces on the roof. The Torah (Moses' five books) tells Jews to celebrate this time and live in their sukkahs for seven days. Today, Jewish people decorate their shelters, eat and sometimes sleep in them during Sukkot.

God Is with Us

Sukkot involves a thanksgiving ceremony that represents God's presence with His people, and our devotion to Him. It involves a lulav and an etrog.

An etrog is like a large, bumpy, sweet-smelling lemon. It represents our hearts. The lulav is a tall palm branch surrounded by shorter branches from a willow and myrtle tree. (See diagram) When we parade around say-

ing our prayers, waving the lulav and etrog, it represents praising God with our whole heart.

Make and Decorate a Sukkah

Make your sukkah from almost anything: cardboard boxes, a wooden frame covered in cloth, plywood. Then cover the top with corn husks or branches. Leave open areas in the top so you can see the stars at night.

You can decorate your sukkah in any festive way. Traditionally, Jewish people hung fruit and vegetables up inside their sukkah to remind them of God's constant loving care for them.

Shoebox-Sized Sukkah

Younger children may enjoy making a sukkah scene from a shoebox. Just give each child a shoebox, coloured markers, small dolls, glue, string and twigs. Let them place their sukkah on a bed of sand. Encourage them to cover the sukkah with grass, and decorate it with cheery colours. (See diagram)

Shoebox-Sized Sukkah Construction



Shoebox on a bed of sand.

Cover the sukkah with twigs and grass.

Sukkah Decoration Ideas

You can use almost anything to decorate your sukkah. Here are some traditional ideas.

1. *Colourful chains.* Beavers and young Cubs especially will like making colourful chains out of construction paper. (Sprinkle on some sparkles for extra sizzle!) Let Beaver-aged children string bright beads and painted macaroni on a cord to hang from the sukkah's roof. Some children might want to thread beads onto thin wire and form a Star of David.

2. *Lamination magic.* Buy some mactac from a local hardware store, then look around in old magazines and calendars for interesting harvest photos. Laminate these to make bookmarks and full-sized pictures that you can hang in your sukkah.

3. *Dried flowers.* Many Jewish people hang dried flowers from their sukkah



Photo: Hazel Hallgren

Take time to make good sukkah decorations. Ask your Beavers and Cubs how they would like to decorate it.

roof. Gather some fall wildflowers and hang them upside down with ribbon. (See diagram) Hanging them like this causes the sap to flow into the flower, making the colours brighter. Some people also hang plastic flowers and fruit from the roof.

4. *Card decorations.* You'll need four bowls filled with four different selections of food colouring, five cutting tools, potato, apple, green pepper, orange, and kiwi. Slice your vegetable/fruit in half, and carve your own design into it. I like making a happy face design on my potato.

Cut out heavy card stock for every member of your pack or colony in sizes approximately 12 cm by 17 cm (5" x 7"). Print "Happy Sukkot!" in the middle of the card. Around these words, stamp the design that you've cut from the vegetable/fruit by carefully dipping the stamp into the bowl filled with food colouring. (See diagram) Let all excess food colouring drip off before you press it onto the card.

5. *Make an etrog.* Punch a small hole through one end of a raw egg. Gently blow out the inside liquid, and keep it for future cooking. Paint the egg yellow, and hang it up from your sukkah's ceiling.

6. *Clay birds.* Birds are cheerful creatures that seem to sing the praises of their Creator. Make some clay birds by mixing equal amounts of salt and flour. Add a little water, and knead into a smooth, pliable, clay-like dough. Form the dough into birds. (See diagram on p.10)

Paint your birds with acrylic, let dry about four hours, then spray with a clear plastic paint. Hang them with colourful ribbon or yarn.

Community Service

Because so much of Sukkot is devoted to thankfulness, why doesn't your colony, pack or troop search for ways to help your neighbours? Your pack or troop could rake a senior's leaves or help someone else needing assistance. Do it for free to spread goodwill.

Organize a fall food drive. As a pack or troop, make up signs to advertise the food drive, then call up well-connected media people to get them "on board." After your drive, go to the food bank to help sort and stack the cans. Over the past eight years our Scouting group has collected over 60 tons of food for the poor. What about sponsoring a special meal for an underprivileged group in your community?

La Shana Tova!



Shutdown on September 20, 1998 marks Rosh Hashana, the Jewish New Year. The Jewish dating system is based on the number of years since Creation, which ancient sages calculated based on biblical writings.

Jewish people spend the day in intensive prayer, beginning a ten-day period of spiritual examination and repentance which culminates with Yom Kippur.

On the occasion of the Jewish New Year, Rosh Hashana 5759, we wish all of our Jewish members La Shana Tova.

May you be inscribed for a happy, healthy and peaceful new year.

Station Games

Competition and races: that's what Cubs and Scouts love. These games are perfect for Cubs, and younger Scouts. Be sure to take the competitive edge off them if you have a Beaver colony.

Divide your members into five equal teams; permit only one team at any one station at any time. Each team member receives a card with all eight stations marked on it. Teams must take no longer than two minutes at each station.

Harvest Food Taste-Off

Blindfold all participants and ask them to taste and identify each harvest food. Try to gather at least five different fall fruits; cut them into small bite-sized pieces.

Make sure you wash the fruit; position a garbage can nearby so team members can spit out any food they don't like. *Allergy alert!* Make sure no one is allergic to the fruit you choose.



Lulav and Etrog Pass

Give the team a lulav and an etrog. Formed into a straight line, members have two minutes to pass both items

over and under each other. When both objects have completed one complete circuit around the team, score a point. If anyone drops the lulav or etrog, both must go back to the starting point.

Sukkah Song Contest

Teams must decide on a song that begins with the letters in the word Sukkah, then sing the first two lines of it together. A leader starts the contest by calling out the letter "S."

After the team has sung a song beginning with this letter, the leader calls out the next letter. Dancing is permitted!

Sukkah Building

Get several decks of cards. Each team must make as many makeshift sukkahs out of cards within the two-minute time period as possible. The number of sukkahs built reflects the final score. Scouts might wish to expe-

rience the challenge of making two-story sukkahs.

Etrog Toss

Use yellow, painted hard-boiled eggs for this challenge. Teams of two must toss and catch their "etrog" back and forth from a given starting point.

Begin by tossing the egg short distances, and then count how many times the teams can successfully complete the challenge. If someone drops the etrog, the game is over. Score one point for each catch. Don't allow the game to exceed two minutes.

Sukkah Ploughing Match

Set up a maze of chairs and tables at this station. Have teams break up into groups of two partners. Holding hands, each team must navigate (plow) around the obstacle course in two minutes. The number of times each team completes the course determines their score.

Dairy Milking Time

This is a messy game, but the kids love it.

You'll need a number of baby bottles filled with water. Each team member will have two minutes to empty the 'milk' from his bottle into a cup. Leaders must clean up the area and refill the bottles after each team has finished, and before the next one arrives for the challenge.

Decorate your sukkah with festive colours.



Photo: Howard Osterer

Going to Great Lengths

You'll need a pile of recycled paper (not newspaper), staplers and lots of patience for this game. Pre-cut the paper into strips 25 cm long by 5 cm wide. Teams must compete to make the longest paper chain. After two minutes has elapsed, a leader will measure the team's chain and add it to previously-made chains.

When all teams have made their chain, assign points for the first, second, third, fourth and fifth team. How long is the chain produced by joining every team's efforts? After completion, donate the paper chain to a nearby sukkah.

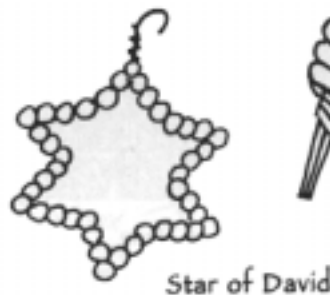
Jewish children love Sukkot's many feel-good program ideas. Though your group may wish to add more familiar Thanksgiving themes, give your program a real spiritual twist. After all, Sukkot and Thanksgiving is all about thanking God for His ever-present love. ^

Program Links

Cubs: World Cubbing Badge, Religion and Life, Purple Star, Tawny Star, World Religions Badge, Canadian Heritage Badge, Handicraft Badge.

— Howard Osterer is Baloo with the 39th Ottawa Henry "Hank" Toronto Cub Pack.

Sukkah decorations



Sharing Your Way Into the PR “Big Times”

by Bob Craig

When was the last time you shared some outstanding PR ideas?

Last spring, the National Communications Committee hosted the National Communications Forum. Members of provincial, and large regional, communications committees were invited to participate. (The national committee is attempting to re-vitalize Scouting's public relations strategies.)

During the Forum, councils were invited to “show off” and share successful PR ideas from their provinces. Some presentations comprised a summary of newspaper clippings, others included sample tray liners and newspaper ads. Still others presented innovative TV public service announcements and billboard campaigns.

Electrifying!

The energy in the room was amazing! For example, a presentation from one council sparked interest in four other councils that wanted to consider a cost-sharing PR strategy and campaign. This creative brainstorming would never have occurred if an opportunity such as the National Communications Forum hadn't existed.

Attending councils agreed that the National Communications Committee needs to create an environment that will allow provincial councils to share ideas and local public relations success stories.

But what about the local level? How often do we get together with neighbouring councils to share public relations ideas?

Dip Into the Success Pool

Every group, district or province at some point has shown real originality

when promoting an activity, event or recruiting drive. What would happen if we started sharing these ideas freely with other councils? Can you imagine the incredible pool of ideas we'd be able to dip into?!

We use resources such as *the Leader* to share program ideas. We often get leaders together at a local level for Scouter's Clubs to exchange program

*By sharing
successful
PR ideas,
everyone
could hit the
“Big Times”*

ideas. Does anyone share public relations ideas?

“Come on!” some might argue. “If an idea has already been used, what would be the sense in re-doing it in another council the following year?” As long as it hasn't been overused, a common message or strategy is good. It lets the public recognize it.

The public doesn't recognize Scouting's “Be Prepared” term because it's used so infrequently in a PR context.

Together We Stand

What would happen if you worked with several councils, sharing excellent

PR ideas? You'd have a wealth of ideas, or at least something that you could adapt to work in your council. That's pretty exciting!

At the National Communications Forum, we witnessed what could be achieved by cost-sharing on a project: more advertising space, and a uniform message across a number of councils. Imagine how much further Scouting councils would be able to stretch their budgets if they worked more closely together sharing ideas. If councils spend time making their own strategy, their own creative, and then buying their space separately, they just aren't able to do as much as they could do working together. Synergies can work!

Clearing Out Good Ideas

What about sharing nationally with local groups?!

We all have the ability to share ideas with councils across the country. In the future the National Communications Committee will be creating the National PR Clearinghouse. We want to make an environment in which local groups and councils can pick up ideas or share thoughts on a variety of subjects, including:

- recruiting new members,
- promoting Scout-Guide Week,
- getting support for Scoutrees, fundraising or any other activities.

Check out our web site at <http://www.scouts.ca> for announcements on the Clearinghouse.

Sharing, sharing, sharing. It's amazing how the Beaver program has had it right all along. If we share, we'll discover how much more we can have and how much more we can achieve. Come share with us! \X

— Bob Craig chairs Scouts Canada's Communications Committee.

Scouting Out the Future

We need vision and dynamic leadership

By Bryon Milliere

What will Scouting look like in twenty or thirty years? Will it be important for children in your community? Will Scouting be different?

Other than uniforms and badge requirements, Scouting has changed very little since I was a Cub. Scouting continues to involve caring, committed adults who provide fun and interesting programs that challenge young people. The program still revolves around the principles of Duty to God, Duty to Others and Duty to Self as we develop young members into responsible members of their communities.

Today, Scouting membership has dropped to almost half of the peak we reached in 1965, though Canada's population has grown during this period by ten million. Since the mid-'60s, we have added the Beaver program and introduced co-ed sections at all levels. Demographic factors such as age distribution, geographic migration of young families, and ethnic diversification have affected membership.

How can Scout councils concerned about declining membership meet the current challenges? How can they reverse current membership trends?

Great Program, Great Leaders

What is "the program?" The activities? The badges? The Mission, The Principles and Program Goals?

Youth view the program as the activities, plus the 'magic' provided by interesting leaders. Let's find the best leaders available and then actively develop outstanding adults for Scouting roles. Does the program and other aspects of Scouting need a significant overhaul to provide an engaging experience for today's youth? The national

research study will give us an objective and unbiased assessment. But will we have the courage to make necessary changes?

Today's Children: Generation Next

Have children changed over the last twenty years?
Yes!



Young people want to "taste" many activities — not just one.

Television brought the world into everyone's living room, and computers made it possible to access an unlimited number of communication channels in every corner of the planet on any subject. Media provide instantaneous reporting of value-shaping events.

The 15-second sound bite affects children, too. Young people want to "taste" many activities — not just one. A child may start in Beavers this year, then move to judo next year, and soccer the following year. It's like surfing channels; they know there are hun-

dreds (perhaps thousands) of exciting activities to try, and naturally, they want to experience them all.

"What's Missing in My Life?"

Children appear to have everything, yet something is missing. Doctors are concerned about the growing physical inactivity of ten-year-olds. The government funds "stay in school programs" to reduce teen dropouts. Communities express alarm over anti-social behaviour in youth. These trends provide evidence that young people have strong physical, mental, social and spiritual needs — needs that Scouting seeks to fulfil.

A Scouting program, delivered by leaders who have the *time* to *show* they *care*, gives young Canadians the basics to succeed. What are the barriers?

Breaking the Time Barrier

The number of double income and single parent families has increased significantly over the last twenty years. Parents are busy! Busy people eventually burn out or do less as their energy fades. Let's cut down the *necessary* time commitment it requires to plan and deliver the program.

Providing excellent "canned programming" in the form of JUMP-STARTS for weekly meetings and weekend events gives inexperienced and busy leaders a timesaving option. They may then invest their time by preparing a better delivery, or adjusting activities to the interests and abilities of their group. By using JUMP-START packages, even the newest leader can benefit from the creativity and experience of the most successful Old Wolves.

The Performance Barrier

How can we sharpen our expertise when working with youth?

New leader orientation and servicing can set down a solid foundation.

Photo: Lauren Snyder-Gault

It can sharpen existing abilities. Communication skills are often best “learned by doing.” Leaders can easily transfer these basic skills to their work place.

The following all support healthy development in youths and adults:

- treating others with respect,
- providing positive encouragement,
- listening to understand,
- establishing reasonable limits.

Before a leader can deliver the program effectively, she must possess a basic understanding of how to approach the various program elements. Once she knows how to choose, set up and lead various types of games (for example), all she needs is the rules. She achieves Scouting’s Mission by combining programs and healthy relationships.

The Tradition Barrier

Scouting enjoys a rich history. It lives in the hearts and minds of every member. This living history, rooted in the generation we experienced it, provides the spirit and passion for the Mission. However, it hampers our ability to adjust to current influences and predictable trends. Latching onto traditions, “the way I did it,” effectively stifles innovation. Particularly this affects servicing, training and program development. Ironically, Baden-Powell was known as an innovator.

Do we want to regain our innovative spirit?

Definitely! Then, let’s create a compelling vision based on the needs of members today and in the future. Scouting can become part of a broader community strategy to develop youth. One of the greatest obligations we have to Canadian youth involves preparing them for the world *they* will live in, not the world we lived in, nor the world we would like to live in.

Scouting’s continuation as a Movement depends on our ability to respond to needs of our youngest members. How easily does your leadership team adjust its meeting plan when it finds that the planned activity isn’t working?

Involve Youths

We can involve youths in leadership decision-making. Just as Scouters-in-Training improve communication between Cubs and adult leaders by bridging generation gaps, an articulate and bright youth member on council can act as a reality check when adult mem-

bers begin stating what they think young members need or want.

Creating a Culture of Leadership

FOCUS — our National Youth Leadership Training Program developed by the National Youth Committee — emphasizes various aspects of effective leadership that are transferable to all levels of Scouting:

- awareness of personal values,
- interpersonal communication skills,
- teamwork, and
- setting goals.

These basic leadership skills are common to both the National Leadership Skills course offered to senior volunteers, as well as the revised Scout and Venturer programs

Leadership requires moving towards a vision. When we renew our focus on leadership, we’ll strengthen our historical culture of innovation. It will improve program delivery and enhance new growth.

Trends in Canadian society (like shifting demographics, generation gaps, time pressure on parents, and the growing number of single parent families), are beyond our control. However, we can adjust our approach to accommodate these ongoing changes. Let’s dare to use innovative methods when supporting leaders, carrying out developmental strategies,

“Are we building a legacy, or living off of a legacy?”

— STEVE KENT (CHAIR, NATIONAL YOUTH COMMITTEE)

and even when running the programs themselves.

A Compelling Future — The Beginning

Scouting *can* continue to play a significant role developing future generations of Canadian leaders. Imagine Scouting as an innovative, dynamic Movement, as an integral part of community life, known for its ability to develop children and youth in a positive, safe, challenging and fun environment.

But... to achieve this vision, Scouting leaders need courage to let go of some of the past and provide strong, committed and visionary leadership. ^



“Yes youth have changed, but we still want more adventure outside.”

Photo: Wayne Henhoefler

What Are Venturers

by Peter Wiinholt, Mike Izzo and Paul Ritchi

Why would ten Venturers volunteer over a week of their time to help care for a group of kids at summer Cub camp?

Close Your Eyes

Picture this. It's a Tuesday afternoon at Cub camp. Looking out on the main field, you can see six Cubs fully absorbed, working on their Aboriginal Awareness Badge. A group of Venturers is helping them explore Native heritage through an active running game. (Some Scouts are also supporting the work.)

On the other side of the field, several other Venturers are helping Cubs work on their Naturalist Badge by demonstrating how animals use camouflage. The Cubs are excitedly searching for the hidden Venturers who have covered themselves in leaves, mud and ashes. Later, Cubs will have their own opportunity to hide like this using forest camouflage.

Sweeping your eyes over closer to the water, you see two Venturers digging a pit for this afternoon's mud wrestling matches. Nearby, one of our fully-qualified lifeguards (also a Venturer) helps lead several Cubs

wilderness and survival skills. The Venturers are pleased to "show off" their knowledge — abilities they've honed in their own Scouting program.

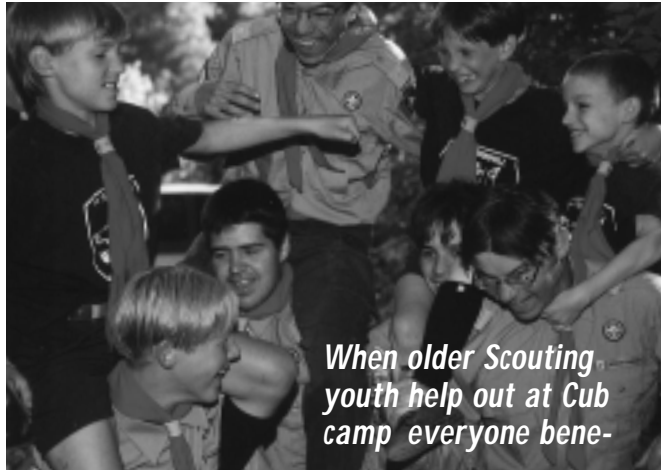
Both groups (Cubs and Venturers) view the camp as an opportunity to raise their personal development, while benefiting each other. Sure the two section programs are very different, but they share basic principles: respect for nature, people and all other forms of life. With this foundation, real bonds develop naturally.

Not Always a Perfect Picture

This idyllic (but true) image took several years to cultivate. At one time the 7th Thornhill Venturer Company was an isolated section with-

in our group. It wasn't connected to other sections, and few Scouts advanced to Venturers. Then several key leaders invited the older teens to Cub camp to help. The "chemistry" was almost instantly evident.

The growth we've experienced since that first summer Cub camp has transformed the 7th Thornhill Group into a



When older Scouting youth help out at Cub camp everyone bene-

through the Swimmer's and Water Craft Badges.

Involve Your Venturers

Is it just the Venturers helping the Cubs?

No. The Cubs are providing a training ground for the Venturer company, which focuses on Native traditions, and

Doing at Cub Camp?

vibrant, exciting closely-knit Scouting family.

Today, the Venturers have become indispensable to the Cub camp program and atmosphere. They help Cub leaders by:

- running special days,
- organizing badge programs,
- taking care of sixes, and
- doing whatever other jobs need attention.

Easing the Load

"The Venturers as well as the Scouts, cut our work in half," says Akela Paul Ritchi. "Their positive respect for nature, and enthusiasm for the wilderness quickly rubs off on our Cubs."

It's a positive experience for Venturers, too. The camp reinforces and promotes many of their program's main goals, including leadership. Because teaching is the best way to learn skills, the teens very quickly master survival techniques. And cast in the position of admired role models, the Venturers really "walk their talk" and show Cubs how to behave socially.

How do Venturers feel about being given all this responsibility?

"Proud," responded Venturer Joel Buxton. "When we give input, other leaders really listen to us and sometimes change the program. No one brushes off our contributions."

Cub camp gives these Venturers a rare opportunity to work closely with adults as full, equal team members, free from all age discrimination. For the Venturers, it gives an incredible sense of satisfaction and self-worth. It also creates an outstanding environment for personal development. "You learn how to work with older children," says Venturer Morgan Jenkin, "and through this you can learn a lot about yourself."

But Are Venturers Capable?

We had no idea how capable and responsible our Venturers were until they came to Cub camp as leaders. They arrived with a wide range of skills, and added a special quality of care for our Cubs. Viewing them as older brothers, the Cubs quickly warmed to them, often treating them as honoured celebrities. Of course, this just increased the Venturers' desire to be even better role models.

Effective communication with Venturer-aged youth is not as difficult as some may think once you've established mutual trust, support, and caring. It takes a bit of work at first, but the teens quickly respond to honest effort.



Venturers can take some of the responsibility load off adult shoulders.

Remarkable Linking Opportunities

After working with Venturers for a week, our Cubs and Scouts quickly realize the adventure and excitement that awaits them in Venturing. This has really boosted youth retention at all levels in our group. Youths now often start in Beavers, and work their way right through all five sections.

"You get to know Venturers at camp, and that makes it much easier when moving up," says Scout David Attar.

According to Scout Areyh Altman, "The Venturers show you all the neat stuff they do. That has had a greater influence over my decision to move up than any words of a leader."

Not Moving On... Moving Closer

Challenge and adventure: these are the basic elements that give life to Venturer company programs. In all our years, we've never encountered any activity that fulfills this more than serving at Cub camp.

As Venturers advance into Rovers, many come back to our summer Cub camps. Some return as Rovers, but many return as full section leaders at the Cub, Scout or Venturer level. Don't miss out on this recruiting opportunity.

Experienced Venturers can help your program enormously. Give them a chance. Not only will they profit personally, but your Cubs will benefit from the exposure. ^

Program Links

Venturers: Service Activity Area, Queen's Venturer Award

— Peter Wiinholt, Mike Izzo and Paul Ritchi are leaders with the 7th Thornhill Group, ON.

Finally!

A Comfortable Camp Chair

by Paul Cray

Are you looking for a comfortable camp chair that is easy enough to build for Cubs or Scouts? This is it! Our chair is not only rugged, but it's also simple to pack.

To make one you need: a piece of #1 pine (64" long, 1" thick, and 12" wide), 6 x #8 - 1 1/4" pan head wood screws, carpenter's glue, oil based wipe-on stain, and sandpaper.

You'll also need a screwdriver, electric drill with 3/4" bit, a jigsaw, tape measure, square, compass, block plane, chisel and pencil. An electric sander and router would also ease construction.

Building Details

1. Cut your pine board into two pieces: 31" and 33". The shorter one is your seat.

2. Mark out the seat (as shown), and cut off the shaded areas.
3. Cut the two scrap pieces produced by step #2 to the width of your board minus 1". These will be "blocks" (described later) screwed into the backrest.
4. Using the compass, mark out an arc on what will be the bottom of your chair. Remember to keep the feet wide enough. Use the jigsaw to cut out the arc, forming the chair feet.
5. Mark and cut the top of your backrest in whatever shape you like. (A straight top looks dull.)
6. Measure up from the feet 7 1/2" and, using the square, draw a line along what will be the bottom of the slot. Measure up an additional 3/4" (the thickness of the seat) and mark in the top of the slot. Place the seat portion on the backrest with the narrow part over the slot lines, and mark the slot width.
7. Drill out the ends of the slot, making sure not to bore beyond the lines. Cut out between the bore

- holes to form the chair's slot. If you are using a router, leave the outside ends of the slot round. (This might be a good time to use the router to make a pleasing pattern along all outside edges.)
8. Use your jigsaw to square up the ends of the slot.
9. Now is the time for a "fit test", but don't sit down on it yet! Simply slide the narrow portion of the seat into the slot. After adjusting for a snug fit, plane or sand all edges smooth.
10. Glue and screw the two blocks to the backrest, making sure one block goes flush with, but *below*, the slot. Glue and screw the other block even with, but *above*, the slot on the backrest.

That's it! All you have to do now is personalize your chair with artwork or carving, then apply wood stain. My chair has survived six years of heavy use around the campfire. It has many years of life left.

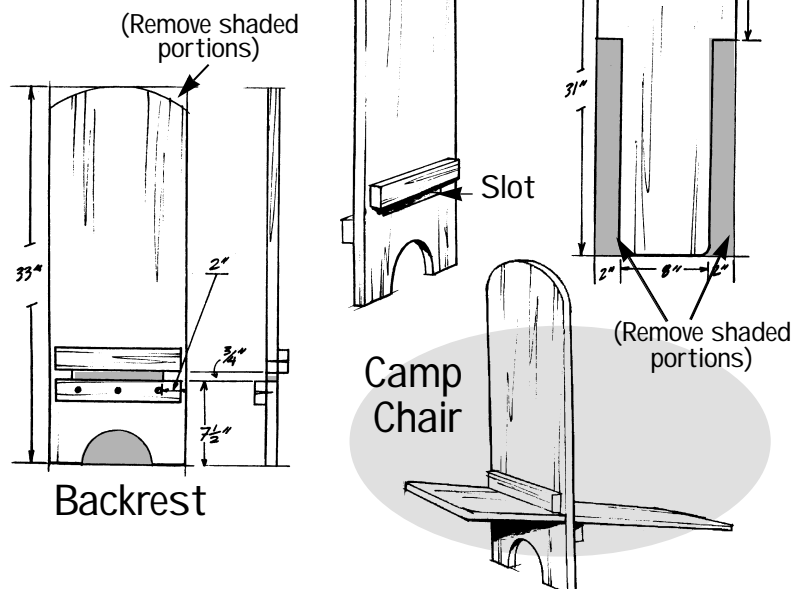
Notice of Annual Meeting Boy Scouts of Canada

Saturday,
November 21, 1998
4:45 p.m.
Radisson Hotel
Ottawa Centre
Ottawa, Ontario

Purpose:

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

Camp Chair Construction



Leave No Trace with the Scouting Ahead Program

by Paul Whitfield and Bruce Thomson

Are you looking for more ways to make your Scouting program environmentally friendly?

Scouting Ahead, with its "leave no trace" theme, might be perfect for your group. Scouters in several areas of Canada (including parts of BC, southern Ontario, and Alberta) are devoted to it.

Scouting Ahead is a program that teaches youth how to enjoy the outdoors without damaging the environment. It consists of three parts: a workshop, youth training, and certification. Leaders may take the workshop (where they receive a manual) and learn effective ways to present the program. The manual contains 35 creative activities for youth in all Scouting sections that will raise their "leave no trace" awareness. The leaders then return to their sections and teach the course to their youth.

The *Scouting Ahead* program is based on seven principles of low-impact recreation:

- Plan ahead and prepare.
 - Camp and travel on durable surfaces.
 - Pack it in/ pack it out.
 - Properly dispose of items you cannot pack out.
 - Leave what you find.
 - Reduce the impact of fires.
- Minimize noise and visual intrusion.



After taking the course, Scouts wanting certification can take part in a day-long event consisting of both written and practical tests. Successful youths receive crests and certificates.

Want more information?

Write to the Fraser Valley Region at: #101-14914 104th Avenue, Surrey, BC, V3R 1M7. E-mail: scouts-fvr@axionet.com.

"We always pack out our garbage. No exceptions!"



Photo: Cecil Keeping

NATIONAL NEWS

National Council Highlights

by John Pettifer

National Council made some key decisions at its meetings in May. Following is a list of several highlights:

- The insurance portion of the membership fee will increase from \$.50 to \$2.50, effective September 1, 1998. Any surplus from this increase will be held in reserve for insurance purposes.
- The National Council of Scouts Canada will adopt a national corporate structure no later than January 1, 1999. This will establish accountability and reporting for all employees. A preliminary report will be available at the November National Council meeting.
- National Council approved several changes to *B.P. & P.* Pick up a copy at your local Scout Shop.

Adult Volunteer Screening

Council passed a motion that requires the CEO to develop, implement and disseminate to all provincial councils an adult volunteer screening record-keeping administrative procedure. This procedure will set out mandatory standards specifying:

- the information which must be recorded to demonstrate that every applicant has been appointed, consistent with *B.P. & P.* and the Adult Volunteer Screening Policy;
- what written records will be kept;
- who is responsible for completing and storing them;
- where they will be stored;
- who will have access to them and for what purposes; and
- how long they will be kept.

Notices of Motion

National Council will be voting on the following Notices of Motion in November.

1. "That Scouts Canada shall be a co-educational organization with the option for male-only groups based on spiritual requirements." (This motion, if adopted, would remove the "local option" aspect of co-ed Scouting, and thus limit male-only sections/groups to those sponsor/partner groups that so mandate.)
2. "That a membership fee increase, not to exceed \$1/member, be approved effective September 1, 1999."

Amory Award Winners

Four companies won honours in this year's Amory Adventure Award. One company, the 144th Bonavista Sea Venturers of Calgary, AB, won first prize for a wilderness bike trip. Three Venturer companies won second place.

- ★ 83rd "E" Venturer Company (Calgary, AB)
- ★ 1st Brooks Venturer Company (Brooks, AB)
- ★ 10th Kingston Venturer Company (Kingston, ON)

There were no third place winners.

The next National Council meetings will be held in Ottawa on November 21.

Build a Debris Shelter:

It's the second most important element for survival

by Karne Kozolanka

So you're stuck in the wilderness with few resources. You know you're going to be there for at least several days. Darkness is coming. What do you do?

If you panic, your chances of survival will drop significantly.

A positive attitude is the most important element for survival. Shelter is the second most important priority.

Caves, hollow logs and rocky outcrops. Lost hikers can find many natural shelters that provide some relief from wetness. But these do little

to keep a body warm. The best survival shelter to protect people from rain, cold or too much heat is a debris shelter.

Building a debris shelter is an easy (and fun) way to teach Cubs and Scouts about wilderness survival. While it takes shape, discuss various survival strategies.

A proper shelter should provide enough insulation for protection from cold and heat, as well as rain. Although heat can be a problem in some areas of Canada, our main survival threats come from wetness and cold.

Build It Anywhere

Anyone capable of piling up sticks, dead leaves and other bits of forest litter lying on the ground can build a debris shelter. Did you know that a squirrel's nest is just a ball of leaves that creates an insulating dead air space? When temperatures drop, the dead air space helps to conserve body heat; in extreme heat conditions, it insulates and keeps the squirrel cooler.

If lost in the bush, your Cubs or Scouts should build a debris shelter *before* the temperature drops, or the rain and wind starts blowing.

Humble Beginnings

Start building your debris shelter by laying a ridgepole on the ground at one end. Lean the other end on an upright stick or in a crotch in a tree. Your ridgepole must be long and high enough that you can lie down underneath on your side without touching it with either your feet or shoulders.

Next, gather armloads of variously sized sticks. Start with the larger ones; lean them up against the ridgepole on both sides and down the entire length. (See diagram) Fill in the spaces with smaller sticks until you can't see through.

These sticks are important. They will act like the roof joists of your shelter.

Now, gather armloads of leaves, twigs, boughs and brush that you find

SURVIVAL: AS EASY AS 1-2-3-4-5

What are the five most important survival priorities you face in the wilderness?

Ask each Cub or Scout to list them.

Though many (most) people will say "food", that's the *least* important priority.

Priority #1

A positive attitude is your top survival priority.

Stories abound of people who died in the wilderness, even when all the right resources were close by. If you fight the panic, stay calm and assume a positive attitude, you'll be able to face immediate dangers (like shelter, poor weather) more creatively.

A clear head will allow you to assess the situation intelligently,

and gather necessary resources and equipment quickly.

Other Priorities

Shelter: that's the second most important survival priority. Proper shelter gives you a place to stay warm and dry, while you wait for rescue. The next three priorities (in order) are:

- water
- fire
- food.

Get your Cubs or Scouts to repeat these priorities over and over. When making survival or first aid kits, discuss why attitude is more important than food. (Most people can survive for weeks without food.)

on the forest floor. Don't use any living branches or bushes.

Pile enough of this material on your shelter roof so you can stick your arm into the wall without breaking through. If the wall isn't thick enough, you won't stay warm and dry.

When you've finished your shelter, form a thick pad of soft and dry leaves inside on the ground. Make it at least as high as your knees. Pile in lots to make a kind of natural sleeping bag around you.

Incredibly Snug

I once lived in a debris shelter for two days through a November sleet storm. I wore only the clothes on my back. The shelter kept me warm and dry throughout!

Practise building debris shelters with youth members on a regular meeting night. Tie it into a "Lost in the

Woods" or "Hug a Tree" survival theme. Involve a local Rover crew if possible. Many Rovers have received special "Hug a Tree" training. Your group can build debris shelters almost anywhere that has a bit of brush and minimal ground cover.

Rescue Is on the Way

This project is a great way to introduce the idea of staying in one place if you get lost. Remember: the most successful search and rescues occur when lost people stay put in one spot.

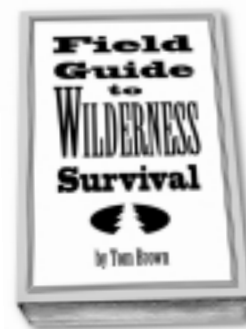
Building a debris shelter will not only give you a snug place to wait while people look for you, but it will focus your mind on positive action. With each branch you put on the ridgepole, your attitude will become more optimistic. It's a great way to overcome the initial shock of being lost. X

Program Links

Cubs: Green Star, Canadian Camper Award, Trailcraft Badge, Camping Badge
Scouts: Outdoor Skills (Voyageur Award/Pathfinder Award)

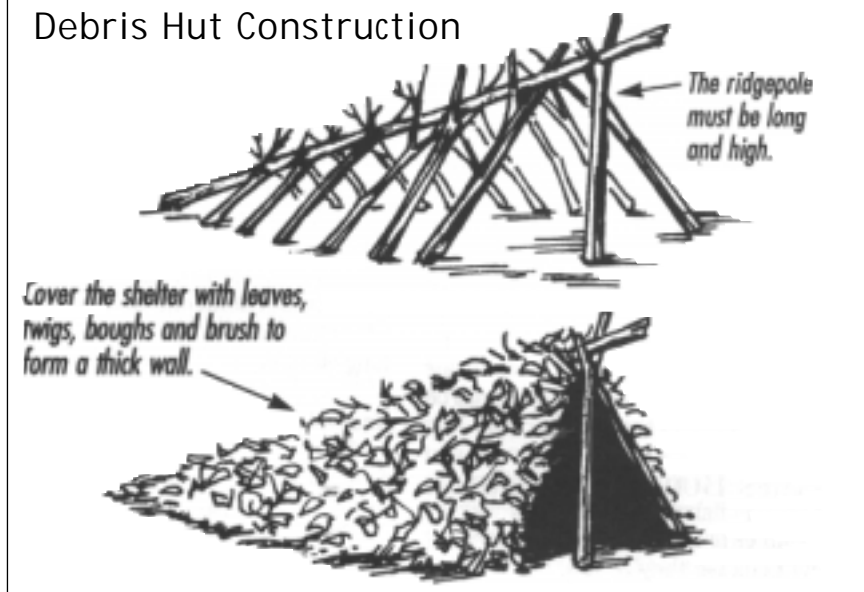
— *Karne Kozolanka teaches outdoor and experiential education at Queen's University, Ontario. He also serves on the National Program Committee.*

LOOKING FOR AN EXCELLENT SURVIVAL BOOK?



If you'd like to find a great book about living off the land, here's a suggestion. Buy Tom Brown's, *Field Guide to Wilderness Survival*. It's excellent. Your local Scout Shop has a large selection of other great wilderness-living books.

Debris Hut Construction



Fun at the Pond

by Lena Wong

Welcome to Beavering!

Whether you're a new leader or a seasoned veteran, this Scouting year is going to be enjoyable for everyone.

Soon, your meeting room will brim over with young faces eager to participate in Scouting activities. To make it easy to remember names during the first weeks, plan for everyone to make name tags — both leaders and children. Use materials strong enough to survive being thrown around, stepped on, taken off and crammed into pockets.

Wood makes the most durable name tags, but thick cardboard is adequate. Cut each name tag into the beaver shape found in Scouts Canada's Beaver logo (see illustration). Make it large enough for a young person to write a name on it. Glue a strip of cloth or ribbon to the top of the tag, and put a safety pin in it for fastening to a shirt or Beaver vest. Use a different colour for each lodge in the colony to reinforce the concept of lodge membership.

GAMES BUILD COOPERATION

Games are popular with Beavers not only because they're fun, but also because they encourage interaction and cooperation. Plan some exciting games at almost every meeting. Make sure you mix up groups equally with new and returning Beavers. Here are some game ideas.

Balloon Relay

This old favourite is a guaranteed winner. Split into teams of five or six children. Line the teams up at one end of the room facing benches or chairs at the other end. Give the first team members each an inflated balloon. They must run to the chairs and sit on the balloons until they pop. When a Beaver successfully bursts one, he or she brings it back to the team where it's replaced with a fresh one.

Make sure you keep this game non-competitive. Play it only for fun, and don't declare any winners.



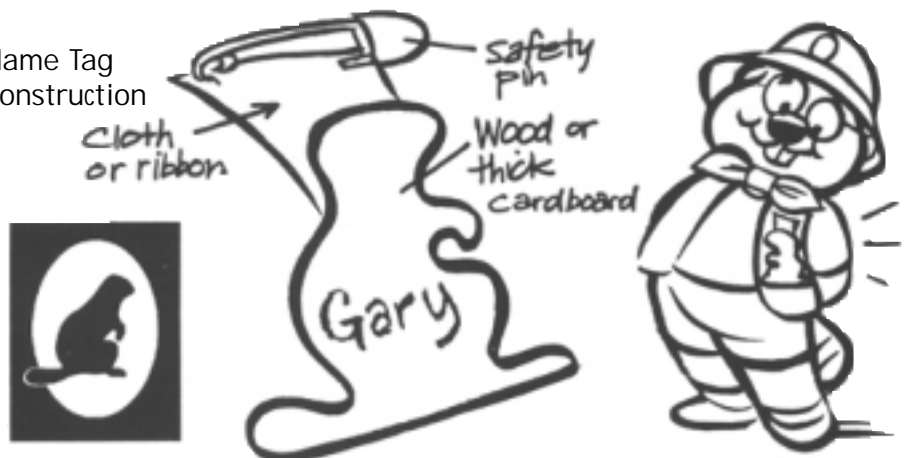
Balloon Pops

Split your Beavers into teams of two: one new child and one old one, where possible. Tie an inflated balloon around the ankle of one team member. Beavers must race to break all the balloons they can, without someone breaking theirs. The team whose balloon survives the longest gets to start the next game.

Snake Dance

Pick an older Beaver to start the game. Put on a tape of a popular children's song. The "Starter" dances up to another Beaver who puts his hands on the shoulders of the "Starter." Together, they dance along picking up more Beavers as they go until everybody is joined in a long chain. Make the game more fun by setting up obstacles so the "snake" must weave in and out and around objects.

Name Tag Construction



CRAFT TIME

Another good starter activity that will build friendships involves making crafts that require cooperation and working together. Pair your Beavers up so an older child helps a new colony member get started on a craft. (This activity works best if the older child is somewhat familiar with the craft.)

Start by making a Beaver Box for carrying craft materials and other important objects to meetings — a great activity for your colony's second night. At your first meeting, ask Beavers to bring a shoe box or other small cardboard container with a lid next week. They should also bring things like a glue stick, washable markers, and stickers to form the basis of a resource kit. Provide pictures of animals, trees, flowers and other nature-related objects cut from old magazines or books.

After the children have cut out the pictures, let them decorate their boxes with crayons, markers and pictures. Other items your Beavers might want to get for their resource kits include blunt nosed scissors and a pencil.

Encourage the Beavers to collect craft items in their boxes, like empty thread spools, bits of colourful cloth and yarn — anything that's interesting. Ask the Beavers to bring their Beaver Boxes to every meeting so they'll have a container to carry home completed crafts, messages for parents, and other items they wish to keep safe.

“GET OUT!”

Plan outdoor activities into your schedule *right from the start* so Beavers get a feel for the *out* in *Scouting*. Organize a bird-watching visit to a neighbourhood park. Make sure you bring along a bird book for identification, and binoculars for closer viewing. The June/July “Fun at the Pond” has instructions for building a simple bird blind. Help your older Beavers to make one.

After you've had a chance to look at birds, talk about:

- what they eat,
- where they find food,
- how they manage during winter.

Discuss how your Beavers can feed birds in their back yard, and explain why it's important to keep feeders constantly stocked with food. If any Beavers are interested, why don't you make a bird table (described below)? Explain to older Beavers that this is the type of activity Cubs do frequently. Use the activity to build anticipation for Cubbing.



Bird Table

You'll need a strong wooden post (about 150 cm long), a square piece of plywood (about 50 cm each side), four strips of wood (each about 45 cm long), and nails. Shape one end of the post to a point. Nail or tack the four strips of wood to the four sides of plywood, so they keep seeds from falling off the table. Now, nail the table to the flat top of the post. Push the bird table into the ground in a spot that's visible from a house window. Screw in small hooks under the bird table, and use them for hanging winter suet or other food.

September is a great month for Beavers to start feeding birds. It can set the scene for winter feeding too. Bring

your Beavers to the bird table regularly in winter months so they can get a close-up view of various bird types. Use a camera to record each visiting bird species, then show the pictures to your Beavers. You might want to keep these photos to make a nature mural at the end of the year.

“THERE'S BEAUTY EVERYWHERE!”

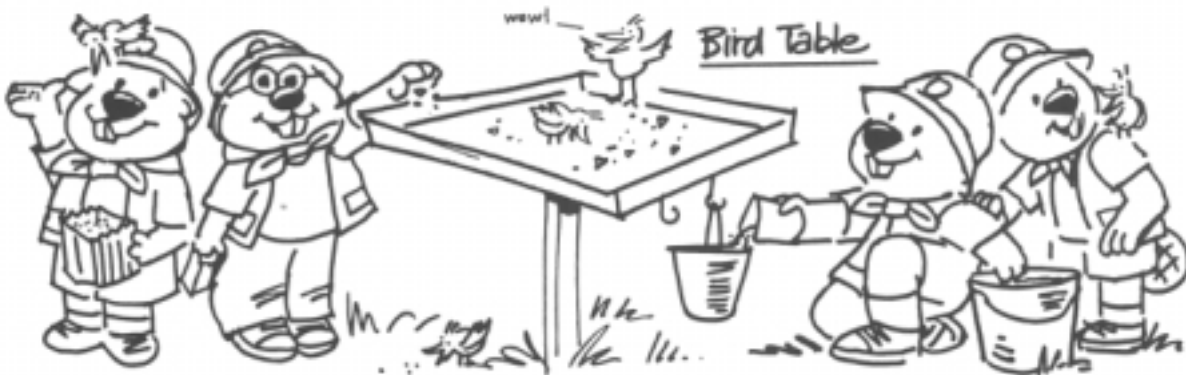
Take a hike through a nature area. Encourage your Beavers to get down on their hands and knees for an eye-level view of the Earth. This will increase their awareness of the fragility of our environment. Take your time, and allow lots of exploration. It doesn't matter if your hike is short; you want each child to see something different in nature and enjoy the natural beauty. An older Beaver might want to take pictures to include in a mural.

Look up at the sky. Are there clouds? What kinds of clouds? Are they light and puffy (cumulus), flat and continuous (stratus), or do they appear like dark flying anvils (cumulonimbus)? Talk about the importance of not looking directly at the sun, even when wearing sunglasses. The sun can cause permanent eye damage very quickly.

Look down and see what's lying at your feet. Are you walking on grass, rocks or a gravel path? If you're walking on a path in the woods, did animals make it? Why *would* animals make paths? Is there water nearby where they might go for a drink? What sort of animals live nearby?

Beavers love getting out in the fresh air. It spells *ADVENTURE* to them. This year, give them every opportunity to run, jump and climb over natural objects outside. That's a very big part of *Scouting*.

Next month we'll explore some Thanksgiving and Halloween ideas. X



When Did God Last Speak Directly to Your Members?

by Ian Mitchell

Spirituality. It's a tough issue for most section leaders. Many just don't know how to tie it into the program creatively.

Making matters worse, some Scouts and Venturers may see little value in focusing on spirituality, despite the added emphasis in both new programs.

So, how do you inject spirituality into the program while maintaining the exciting adventure that keeps youth coming back?

"Well, you called me!"

Scouts and Venturers like unexpected "things." If they were reciting the Lord's Prayer at the close of a meeting, would they be surprised if God answered back and got involved? Now that would be different!

Try out this play in your group. Though it's written for Christians, members of other faiths could adapt the

idea for their purposes. It's a conversation between a teen sitting at a campfire and God. (The person playing God should hide in the dark behind some bushes.)

Youth: "Our Father who art in Heaven..."

God: (In a loud voice) "Yes?"

Youth: "Don't interrupt me. I'm praying."

God: "But you called me."

Youth: "Called you? I didn't call you. I'm praying. *Our Father who art in Heaven...*"

God: "There, you did it again."

Youth: "Did what?"

God: "Called me. You said: '*Our Father who art in Heaven.*' Here I am. What's on your mind?"

Youth: "But I didn't mean anything by it. I was, you know, just saying my prayers for the day. I always say the Lord's Prayer. It makes me feel good... kind of like getting a duty done."

God: "All right, go on."

Youth: "*Hallowed be your name...*"

God: "Hold it. What do you mean by that?"

Youth: "It means... It means... Good grief, I don't know what it means. How should I know? It's just part of the prayer. (Pause) Well, what does it mean?"

God: "It means honoured, holy, wonderful."

Youth: "Hey, that makes sense. I never thought what 'hallowed' meant before. *Your Kingdom come, your will be done, on Earth as it is in Heaven...*"

God: "Do you really mean that?"

Youth: "Sure. Why not?"

God: "What are you doing about it?"

Youth: "Doing? Nothing, I guess. I just think it would be kind of neat if You got control of everything down here like You have up there."

God: "Have I got control of you? I don't think so. You control yourself. I gave you freedom to do what you want. You can either follow me or not. I have

You can
talk to God
anywhere.
Even while
taking a break
during a kayak
adventure.



Photo: Dennis Power

control of you only if you give it to me, and keep on giving it to me.”

Youth: “Well, I go to church.”

God: “That’s not what I asked you. What about that habit of gossip you have? And your bad temper? You’ve really got a problem there. And then there’s the way you spend your money... all on yourself. And what about the kind of books you read?”

Youth: “Stop picking on me! I’m just as good as some of the rest of those phonies at church.”

God: “Excuse me. I thought you were praying for *My* will to be done. If that is to happen it will have to start with the ones who are praying for it. Like you, for example. Besides, there may be some phonies in church. There are phonies everywhere, but why have you so willingly joined their crowd?”

Youth: “Oh, all right. I guess I do have some hang-ups. I haven’t thought about it very much until now, but I really would like to improve, if You would show me how.”

God: “Good. Now we’re getting somewhere. I’ll work with you. You’re going to win some real victories. I’m proud of you.”

Youth: “Look, Lord, I need to finish up here. This is taking a lot longer than it usually does.”

Give us this day our daily bread...”

God: “You need to cut out the bread. You eat too much junk food as it is.”

Youth: “Hey, wait a minute! What is this: criticize me day? Here I was doing my religious duty and all of a sudden you break

God: “Try me and see.”

Youth: “*Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us...*”

God: “What about Linda?”

Youth: “See! I knew You would bring her up. Why, Lord? She told lies about me, and cheated me

“Talking to me is dangerous. You could wind up changed, you know.”



in and remind me of all my hang-ups!”

God: “Talking to me is dangerous. You could wind up changed, you know. That’s what I’m trying to get across to you. *You called me, and here I am.* You could stop praying. I give you that freedom too, but I’d like you to keep it up. Besides, I’m interested in the next part of your prayer.” (Pause) “Well, go on.”

Youth: “I’m scared to go on.”

God: “Scared? Of what?”

Youth: “I know what You’ll say.”

out of some money. She never paid back that debt she owes me. I’ve sworn to get even with her.”

God: “But what about your prayer?”

Youth: “I didn’t mean it.”

God: “Well, at least you’re honest, but it’s not much fun carrying that load of bitterness around inside, is it?”

Youth: “No, but I’ll feel better as soon as I get even. Boy, have I got some plans for old Linda. She’ll wish she never gave me any trouble.”

God: “You won’t feel any better.

You'll feel worse. Revenge isn't sweet. Think of how unhappy you already are. But I can change that. However, it's your choice. I gave you the freedom to choose, remember?"

Youth: "You can change it? How?"

God: "Forgive Linda as I have forgiven you. Then, the hate and sin (wrong-doing) will be Linda's problem, and not yours. You may lose the money, but you will have settled your heart."

Youth: "But Lord, I *can't* forgive her."

God: "Can't or won't? If you *will* not forgive her, then I will not forgive you."

Youth: "Oh, you're right. You're always right. You know... more than my desire for revenge on Linda, I want to be right with you." (Pause, sigh) "All right, all right, I forgive her. Help her to find Your road in life. She's bound to be awfully miserable, now that I think about it. Anybody who goes around doing the things she does to others has to be out of it. Someway, somehow, show her the right way. I *do* want her life to be better. And Lord, help me to forget it, too."

God: "There now, how do you feel?"

Youth: "Hmm, well, not bad. Not bad at all. In fact, I feel great! You know, I don't think I'll have to go to bed uptight tonight. It'll be the first time in weeks."

God: "You're not through with your prayer. Go on."

Youth: "Okay. *And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil...*"

God: "Good! Good! I'll do that. Just don't put yourself in a place where you can be tempted. Once more, I give you freedom to choose. If you choose trouble, don't blame it on me."

Youth: "Sometimes freedom isn't so great."

God: "I don't want robots following me. I want people with me who want to be there."

Youth: "What do you mean by not putting myself in a spot to be tempted?"

God: "Quit hanging around with that group that's always getting into trouble. Change some of your friendships. You know the ones I'm talking about. Those so-called 'friends' are starting to hurt you. They'll have you completely involved in wrong things before long; don't be fooled. They say they're having fun, but they're not really enjoying themselves. Their laughter has a hollow, bitter edge. It's not real laughter. Something else. Don't use me as an escape hatch."

Youth: "I don't understand."

God: "Sure you do. You've done it a lot of times. You find yourself in tough situations, you get into trouble, and then you come running to me. 'Lord, help me out of this mess, and I promise You I'll never do it again.' Remember some of those bargains you tried to make?"

Youth: "Yes, and I'm ashamed, Lord; I really am."

God: "Which bargain are you remembering?"

Youth: "Well, the time I almost got caught for shoplifting. I

Make Your Own SCOUT JUMPSTART

If you're interested in making your own Scout JUMPSTART program packages, check out the *Sharing/Paksak* column on pages 30-33.

It's full of helpful tips and ideas how even Scout leaders can design their own JUMPSTART activities.

remember telling you: 'Oh Lord, don't let me get caught. If I don't, I promise I'll be in church every Sunday and do anything you want me to do.'"

God: "Did you get caught? No. And you didn't keep your promise, did you?"

Youth: "I'm sorry Lord. I really am. Up until now I thought that if I just prayed the Lord's Prayer every day, then I could do what I liked. I didn't expect anything to happen like this... that you really listened."

God: "Do you think I want to listen to lies? Okay, go ahead and finish your prayer."

Youth: "*For Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.*"

God: "Do you know what would really make me happy?"

Youth: "No, but I'd like to know. I want to please you. It won't be easy. In fact it would be easier 'doing my own thing.' I can see how neat it would be to follow you."

God: "You just answered my question."

Youth: "I did?"

God: "Yes. The thing that would make me happy is if people like you would truly love me — not just a sham, hypocritical love. Now that you're deal-

Youth: "Lord, let's see what we can make of me, okay?"

God: "Yes, let's see."

Youth: "And Lord..."

God: "Yes?"

Youth: "Could I say that prayer over again?"

God: "You bet! And I'll be listening."

Do you want to be in control or do you want others to influence you?

ing with some of those old sins, there's no telling what we can do together. See. Your freedom is opening up opportunities."

Look for Creative 'Hooks'

This skit would make a great lead into the Scout section Pathfinder requirement to "discuss your beliefs." With Venturers, the skit can help youth start talking about spirituality.

Use the activity to open discussion on the following subjects:

- *Forgiveness:* Linda lies and takes his money.
- *Peer pressure:* Hanging out with a group that is always getting into trouble. Do you want to be in control or do you want others to influence you?
- *Making promises:* When almost caught shoplifting. X

CROSS-COUNTRY
PHOTOS

Chief Scout Honour Guard

When Chief Scout and Governor General, the Right Honourable Roméo Leblanc, visited Whitehorse (Yukon) last year, an excited group of Beavers, Cubs and Scouts helped welcome him to the north. "The Scouts... here today remind us not only of their own good work, but of the volunteers behind them," said the Chief Scout.
Photo: Michael Schaffer



"We're all planetary caretakers."



Caitlyn Helmer, Jamie Reddick and Brian Kim, Cubs from the 1st Vedder Pack (Chilliwack, BC), spent a Saturday cleaning up the banks of the nearby Vedder River. Before heading out to pick up garbage, scrub graffiti off rocks and enjoy the day, the Cubs learned about safety measures. Everyone wore thick rubber gloves. Community service involves looking after our resources so others can experience Canada's wilderness too. Photo: Cindy Helmer

Beaver barbells? No problem.



Invite Superman to Your Next Beaveree

"Beavers is a strong program." At least that's what Superman thought when he visited the Willow Valley Beaveree last fall, in North York, ON. The Beavers couldn't believe that Superman would actually come, but sure enough, right on time he arrived to share, share, share. His word is dependable, just like ours should be.
Photo: Rick Ross

Not-So-Mad Cub Scientists



Stefan Phillips and a buddy made "flubbers" at a science centre camp-in last year. Both youths come from the 86th St. Angela Pack in Regina, SK. When the weather turns bitter, it's still possible to get the "out" in Scouting. A sleepover or camp-in makes a terrific opportunity to earn badges.
Photo: Benjamin Eng

Apple Fundraisers Take a Bite



Whether they're Beavers, Cubs or Scouts, youths from the 1st Iroquois Group, ON, love offering apples to neighbours in their community. "It's healthy and a great fundraiser!" said one Cub as he sold apples.
Photo: S. L. Johnston \

Follow the Leaders... Outside

by Ben Kruser

Outdoor activities are getting the attention of the business world. Two recent studies prove it.

The *Globe and Mail* reported one study that revealed that Rocky Mountain wilderness areas are now generating more dollars than traditional natural resource industries like mining and forestry. In today's stressed society, people are turning to the outdoors to relieve their stress, and refresh their minds, bodies and spirits.

The U.S. Sporting Goods Manufacturing Association conducted another study that showed a similar trend. Its information revealed a sporting "first." The traditional top three outdoor activities (freshwater fishing, tent camping and hiking/backpacking) actually surpassed the top three team sports (basketball, volleyball and softball) in terms of the number of people taking part.

Statistics from the Canadian Sports Equipment Industry show that while hockey and baseball equipment imports fell by 5-7%, inline skating imports rose by 87%, and snowboards by 28%. Other sources reveal that walking is the primary physical activity chosen by most Canadians.

We're "In Line" to Win If..

Because our programs are fundamentally centred on outdoor activities, and there's a growing wave of Canadians interested in fresh air experiences, Scouting is in an excellent position to benefit. Plenty of people are willing to join an organization that's prepared and experienced in leading outdoor activities for children and families.

If this is true, why are so many Scouters spending so much time planning indoor activities? Why have they forgotten the simple pleasure of meeting in a park on a weekend morning, or taking a ramble with good friends and family members?

As you begin planning your fall meetings, make this promise: at least once a month, take your section on a one-to two-hour hike somewhere. How can you fit this into the program? Meet once a week for three weeks, skip the last week's meeting, and instead have everyone gather at a park, nature reserve, or even a shopping mall when the weather turns cold.

Kids love to explore, have adventures and see the world. Rambles and hikes require only simple logistics planning, and it's easy to fill them with other activities that tie into badge work. Take a slow hike to see the fall colours change, look for animal trails, and enjoy the break from the daily routine. Invite entire families; make it a real family event. Keep your planning basic, and allow lots of time for fun.

See Your Scout Shop

Before you go, stop off at your local Scout Shop. Most Shops are well equipped to prepare parents and young members with basic day hiking needs.

This fall why not spend less time providing a weekly program, and more time getting kids outdoors at least once a month. The outdoors is a terrific learning environment. You'll love it, and so will they. X

From the Awards File

by Rob Stewart

Many Scouting members have distinguished themselves for outstanding service and heroic action. Here are just a few stories.

Certificates for Meritorious Conduct

While travelling home from a regional meeting on November 26, 1997, seven Scouters came upon an accident scene. A vehicle had overturned on the highway. Immediately, the Scouters swung into action. Due to the remote location, it took some time before police and ambulance attendants arrived on the scene. During this time, the Scouters offered first aid to the victims.

For their prompt, competent action, Marion Haywood, Bruce Haywood, Chris Haywood, Sarah Coffey, Gary Ratchford, Darrel Anne Schwartz and Jacquie Blanchard each received a Certificate for Meritorious Conduct. (These Scouters are all members of the Northern Region Council, BC/Yukon.)

A similar accident occurred on April 12, 1997 as a group of Scouters returned from a meeting of the former Land-O-Lakes Regional Council, ON. The accident involved two vehicles; one person died. The Scouters notified police, directed traffic, offered first aid to victims, and provided crowd control. For their actions in a highly stressful and poten-

tially dangerous situation, Mark Madill, Christopher Randle, David Randle, Louise Stewart, Craig Armstrong, Sheila McNiece, John Edwards, and Cathy Traverse were awarded Certificates for Meritorious Conduct.

Medal of Merit

Elizabeth Mastine of Greenfield Park, QC, received a Medal of Merit for Especially Good Service to Scouting last April. Her list of accomplishments include: recruiting new leaders, maintaining group records, helping at camps, organizing Kub Kar rallies, taking part in numerous fundraising activities, serving as a pack and troop leader, taking a group of youth to CJ85, organizing registration nights, serving on the district council, and cooking at camps. She's also chair of the Greenfield Park Group. During last winter's ice storm in Eastern Canada, Elizabeth distinguished herself and Scouting by working tirelessly at a shelter.

Austin Anthony of St. John's, NF, also received a Medal of Merit. He has been very involved in the Venturer program and on a group committee. Some of his accomplishments include: participating in 13 week-long backpacking expeditions, providing valuable guidance to Venturers, presenting many courses on winter survival and outdoor skills, training on Woodbadge courses, helping at the 1991 provincial jamboree, and help-

ing to organize and lead a 10-day trek hike along an abandoned rail bed.

Bar to Medal of Merit

Vern Rice received a Bar to the Medal of Merit for his Continued Especially Good Service to Scouting. Vern's service to Scouting includes: serving as assistant area commissioner for Cubs, serving as area commissioner for West Scarborough Area (ON), and serving as assistant area commissioner for training. In 1993 he helped establish two new groups. Vern chairs the area's honours and awards committee, and donates many hours each week to Scouting.

Robert Black of North Waterloo, ON, received the Bar to the Medal of Merit for his continued service to Scouting. Robert has served in a variety of positions, at both section and committee levels. He has provided leadership or service staff support at two Canadian, one world, two provincial and two regional jamborees. He has also worked hard supporting programs and facilities at district camps and offices.

Who Are Your Local Heroes?

Have you identified the local heroes in your area?

Go ahead! Submit an application to your honours and awards committee identifying all those Scouters who deserve special credit. Who knows... someone might nominate you! \

Develop Your Own

JUMPS For Beavers,

by Ross Francis and Ian Mitchell

JUMPSTART is a program planning tool containing a full month of fun-filled, skill-based, and theme focussed activities. Many include ideas for an

outdoor event. Until now you've had to buy JUMPSTART packages in Scout Shops, but with a little bit of planning, you'll soon be designing your own.

How to Create a JUMPSTART package

Start by picking a theme for your JUMPSTART — something that really fires up the imaginations of your Beavers, Cubs or Scouts.

Make four or five copies of the blank meeting schedules (see p.33) from your section. Now simply fill in the activities, games and skills based on your theme. You might find it easiest to fill in the skill section for all four weeks first, then write in your games and songs afterwards.

Hey. This is pretty simple!

Stay Flexible

Use the time parameters as a *general guideline only*. (All meetings should take approximately the same length of time.) Also, don't forget to include an opening and closing ceremony, and time for a six or patrol meet-

ing. The rest of the program is up to you to decide what activities will most interest your members.

After filling in a month's program, check it against your section's goals — the program must cover them all.

Be sure to plan an outdoor activity at the end of your month's program, based on your theme, or using the skills the youth learned during the theme. Better yet, run the entire program outside.

Go Nuts!

If you chose a "Nuts" theme, pick songs either about nuts or with the word in it. Then make crafts using nut

PROGRAM RESOURCES

Check your Scouts Canada catalogue for a full listing of program books and resource materials. Scout councils offer many training courses, too. Find out when they are offered, then sign up. Call your local Service Scouter or Field Executive for assistance and information.



JUMPSTART Packages Cubs, even Scouts

shells. Can you think of any games using nuts? (Look in *Games... From A to Z*.)

During your skill sessions, you could learn how nuts grow, where they grow, or what foods use them. Why not find out about nut allergies? (Would first aid tie in here?) You could even bake a dessert with nuts.

For your outdoor activity, go to a nut processing plant, visit a farm that harvests nuts, or visit a chocolate bar factory that uses nuts in the candy.

JUMPSTART Writing Tips

☞ *Unforeseen events may alter your basic plan.* Flexibility will make your meetings more enjoyable for both leaders and youths. Times found in JUMPSTART's weekly planning schedules are approximate only; change them to suit local needs.

☞ *Shared leadership means sharing the workload.* When every leader accepts a job, no one feels over-burdened with the work. This makes Scouting more fun for everyone. JUMPSTART's weekly planning schedules provide space to record which leaders have responsibility for the various activities.

☞ *Keep notes.* Was the program a success? What worked? What didn't? At the bottom of every weekly meeting schedule, JUMPSTART provides space to record these details. Plan to stay after the meeting to discuss the program with fellow leaders. This will save time and make future programs run smoother.

☞ *Be creative.* JUMPSTART material sets out a *basic* plan. Don't tie yourself to it if some part of the program doesn't fit your situation. Add your own creativity for more fun and excitement.

Program Planning

Effective planning. That's the key to providing a program which meets the needs of Scouting youth. It makes the difference between a program which offers no meaningful fun, and one that gives a variety of exciting, challenging experiences.

Use your section's program guidelines as an initial gauge for measuring whether a particular activity idea is appropriate for the program. The guidelines are also a tool for evaluating the design of the section program.

Planning makes all leaders fully aware of their commitments; it helps them equip themselves for the job ahead.

What else is important?

Plan more activities than you need. If one part of the program does not seem to be working, switch to a backup activity. This will also help reduce discipline problems caused by boredom during lag times between activities.

Who Plans?

Although group decision-making may sometimes be slow, when the leadership team shares planning responsibility, individual burdens are greatly reduced.

Before getting too carried away with planning, don't forget an excellent resource: the youths themselves! Ask them about their interests. Give them an opportunity to brainstorm ideas and themes. Write these suggestions down for later use in picking programs.

Meet with your leadership team and develop common themes. They will more easily accept ideas that are gener-

ated by the youth and packaged into themes. The team will see a purpose in their work; this will generate enthusiasm.

Planning Phase

Long-Range

On a calendar (the Scouts Canada calendar works well), mark down these dates:

- ↘ regular meeting dates,
- ↘ school vacation periods,
- ↘ special holidays,
- ↘ district events (e.g. Apple Day),
- ↘ special community events,
- ↘ special weeks (Scout-Guide Week),
- ↘ hiking/camping activities,
- ↘ dates when the meeting hall is not available.

Now add other special dates like religious celebrations that might provide themes for your planning. (See your leader's handbook for more details.)

Write in the themes young members want to try, keeping in mind the need for flexibility and variety.

Be realistic when you estimate budget costs. The group will have to raise whatever funds your section needs. Prioritize your list in case you cannot do some activities. (The group committee must approve your estimate.)

Now that you have a long-term plan, use it to draw up a medium- and short-term plan.

Medium-Range

A medium range plan covers a period of two or three months. Its purpose is to:

- decide on community resources you need, and make necessary contacts,
- gather necessary equipment,
- set goals related to themes,

- determine needs of youth members,
- designate specific program responsibilities to all leaders,
- communicate with parents,
- evaluate past programs and make necessary changes,
- brainstorm so as many activities as possible occur outside.

When developing your monthly programs, use a combination of program elements to ensure variety. (JUMPSTART packages available in Scout Shops illustrate this well.) These elements include games, crafts, music, acting, sports, outdoors, and spiritual fellowship. Use these elements to avoid a boring program and to hold the youths' interest.

BEAVER/CUB/SCOUT JOINT ACTIVITY NIGHT

Here's a fun example of a joint Beaver/Cub/Scout JUMPSTART package that your leaders might want to try out this fall with other sections. It would make an excellent linking event. After you run the program, continue meeting occasionally in joint program activities throughout the year.

Suggested Meeting Schedule: One Week		Theme: Outdoors	
Date: Sept 27 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.			
Time	Activity	Program Details	Leader Responsible
10 mins.	Gathering activity	Nature Kim's Game (See p. 103 of <i>Best of the Leader Cut-Out Pages</i>)	Baloo
10 mins.	Opening ceremony	Each section opening as per <i>Leader's Handbooks</i>	Rainbow, Akela and Troop Scouter
15 mins.	Game	Crows and Cranes (p. 87, <i>Games... From A to Z</i> . Put half of each section on each team.)	Court of Honour
45 mins.	Skills	Build/fly kites (one per youth) (p. 140-141, <i>Cub Book</i>) Beavers colour or paint material. Cubs cut and assemble tails. Scouts build frames.	Group committee and parents
15 mins.	Game/Challenge	Relay Game Gift Wrapping (p. 128, <i>Games... From A to Z</i>)	Beaver leaders
15 mins.	Game	Outdoor Treasure Hunt (p. 197, <i>Games... From A to Z</i>) Treasure is bag of cookies for each team.	All leaders
10 mins.	Snack time	Cookies (treasure) and juice	Juice served by Sixer's Council
10 mins.	Closing		
15 mins.	Leader discussion time	Review meeting & discuss next week's plans	
Badge Links:			
Meeting Notes:			

JUMPSTART MEETING SCHEDULE

Enlarge this JUMPSTART template, and use it when making up your own program. This template fits the Beaver program; if you're a Cub leader, just add more activity slots to fit your program requirements (e.g. six meeting, theme activity, etc.).

JUMPSTART Meeting Schedule			Date: _____
Time	Activity	Program Details	Leader
10 min.	Gathering activity		
5 min.	Opening ceremony	See <i>Leader's Handbook</i>	
10 min.	Game		
20 min.	Theme activity		
10 min.	Song/story		
10 min.	Game		
5 min.	Spiritual fellowship	Recite Law/Promise/Prayer	
5 min.	Closing ceremony	See <i>Leader's Handbook</i>	
15 min.	Leader discussion time	Review meeting and discuss next week's plans	
Badge Links:			
Meeting Notes:			

Short-Range

You are now ready to prepare detailed plans for a specific time period — a month or a weekend event. Sit down with the entire team to prepare the meeting plan. During this meeting the team may want to “preview” the theme by doing such things as:

- playing the games,
- becoming familiar with the skills,
- practising ceremonies,
- learning new songs.

Practice prepares the whole team to help implement the activity and ensures all leaders are ready to fill in if needed. After the meeting, check back to see if your program activities met the goals for your Scouting section. These goals help you evaluate whether your program fulfils the needs of your section's youth. If your youth are having fun, you can bet the program meets their needs.

Remember... plan your work, then work your plan, and HAVE FUN YOURSELF!

JUMPSTART's Easy

Planning a terrific JUMPSTART program isn't difficult. Once you get started, it'll be a lot of fun. You might even want to create an entire series of programs!

Go ahead; try it. Not only is it enjoyable, but it will draw your entire leadership team together. X



IS YOUR JUMPSTART PACKAGE A WINNER?

Scouts Canada is looking for excellent JUMPSTART packages that you've field-tested to success. If your Beavers, Cubs or Scouts enjoyed a home-grown JUMPSTART program, send it to: Scouts Canada, Program Services, PO Box 5151, Stn. LCD-Merivale, Ottawa, ON, K2C 3G7.

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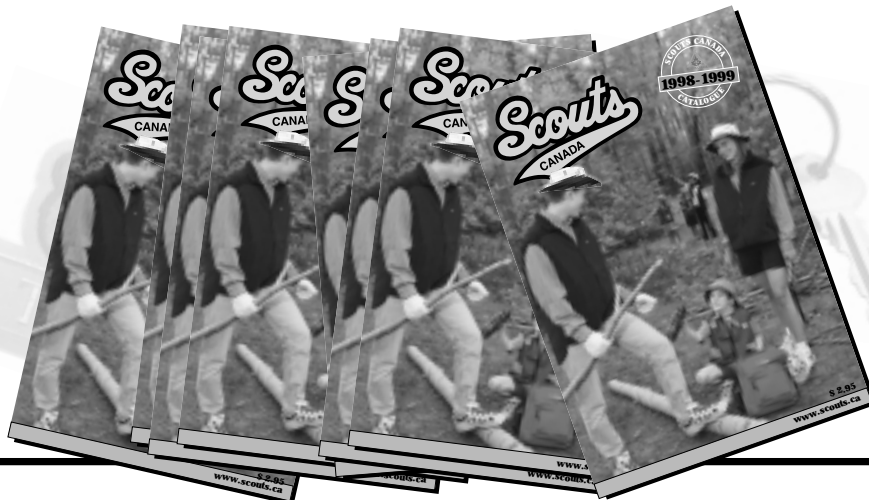
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Your purchases help support local scouting. Check out www.scouts.ca for the Scout Shop closest to you.



SCOUTER'S 5

What Do Teens Really Want?!

- Are you a new Scouter who's struggling, trying to understand the expectations of youths under your care? Perhaps you've been a leader for years but just need a reminder. Here are some thoughts from the book *Leading Teen Age Groups*, by Dorothy Roberts. It presents some positive, common beliefs young people hope to experience with adults.
- ☉ They're friendly.
 - ☉ They trust us.
 - ☉ They like us.
 - ☉ They're willing to listen to our ideas.
 - ☉ They might have ideas and suggestions, but they don't try to force us to accept them or to work them out the way they think we should
 - ☉ They're willing to talk to us as though we had some sense and minds of our own.
 - ☉ They know more than we do, and have more experience.
 - ☉ Age doesn't matter, as long as we share understanding.
- They don't force their ideas on us, but are willing to say what they are if we ask.
- They look interested and alert.
- Try living up to these expectations. If you do, expect a friendly, cooperative, trusting, self-disciplined troop or company. The youths will actively seek out your advice and honour your experience. Respect breeds more respect; this just reinforces Scouting's Principles.
- Want more ideas? See your *Scout* or *Venturer Leader's Handbook*. It's a resource that's just brimming over with terrific advice.

Scouter's 5 Minutes

Aug./Sept. '98

RECIPES

- Is your group planning a pioneer theme? These interesting recipes and trivia can make your program more dynamic. They come from Scouter John Taylor, in Jarvis, ON.

Dried Apples

- Each fall, pioneers dried bushels of apples so they would have lots of fruit during winter months. Here's the method they used. First, they gathered together as a large family and got everyone involved peeling apples from the orchard. (Worms were not always cut out of the apples. They added more protein!)

When the pile of peeled apples started growing, children would string them on long cords and hang them in a window or in a warm room to dry. (This drying process took many weeks.) When all the moisture had left the apples, they'd be put away for apple pies or sauces. How does this drying method differ from the one we use to make homemade beef jerky?

This little rhyme describes the less-than-sanitary drying process pioneers used.

- First they don't take half the peeling off,
Then on some dirty cord they're strung,
Then from some chamber window hung,
Where they serve as roosts for flies,
Until they're ready to make into pies!

Recipes

Aug./Sept. '98

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Apple Cobbler

This pioneer recipe serves six hungry people who have just stumbled in from the fields.

You need: 1 L dried apples (you could use berries or other fruit), 500 mL flour, 2 mL salt, 30 mL honey, 120 mL butter, 20 mL baking powder, 60 mL milk (to make dough).

Put a layer of fruit on the bottom of a casserole dish. Sift flour and salt into a bowl, cut in butter, add milk and form into a ball. Roll pastry on floured board, then place a layer of pastry on top of fruit, then a layer of fruit. Cover with pastry.

Bake at 220°C for 25 minutes, or until the crust is brown.

Early Remedies for Sickness

Feeling a bit “under the weather”? Here are some pioneer home remedies used 150 years ago.

Sore throat: Honey mixed with hot water.

Colds: Spearmint tea.

Sores and abrasions: Heat bean leaves with lard. Pour off lard and let cool. Put mixture on the sore.

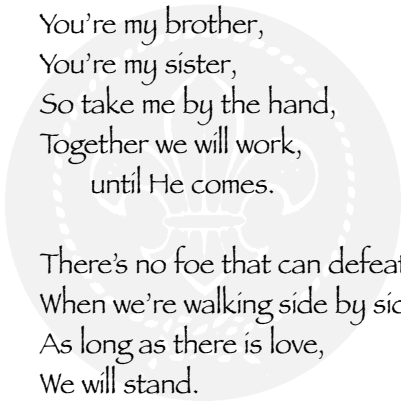
Burns: Black elder, lard resin and bees wax mixed into a salve.

Indigestion: Dried burdock root tea.

Recipes

We're In the Scouting Brotherhood

These words formed part of a song that Scouts and Venturers around the world sang at the World Jamboree in Holland in 1995. End the song with these simple words: “Let the light of peace catch fire in us. Then, God’s light and power will penetrate the darkness like rays of light. When this happens, the future will be full of light and peace.”



You're my brother,
You're my sister,
So take me by the hand,
Together we will work,
until He comes.

There's no foe that can defeat us,
When we're walking side by side,
As long as there is love,
We will stand.

Points to Ponder

from Hazel Hallgren

- True courage is like a kite; a contrary wind raises it higher.
- The only “something” you get for nothing is failure.
- Some people’s expenditure of speech is too great for their income of ideas.
- Have you ever noticed how some people grow under responsibility, while others merely swell?

— *Hazel Hallgren, Red Deer, AB.*

Scouter's 5 Minutes

Scouting: *Satisfaction Guaranteed!*

by Andy McLaughlin

Way to go! Scouting has many satisfied customers, according to a recent survey of leaders, members and parents.

- 71% of those surveyed said they were "very satisfied" with Scouting.
- An additional 24% said they were "somewhat satisfied."

Enviably Results

Even more great news emerges when we break down results among youth members, parents, and leaders.

Of the youth members:

- 99% say Scouting is fun.
- 95% look forward to going to section meetings.
- 89% say Scouting makes them feel special.

Of the parents:

- 98% say they would encourage other parents to involve their children in Scouting.
- 95% say that leaders teach their children valuable life skills.
- 95% feel that Scouting provides good value for the money.

Of the leaders:

- 98% would encourage other adults to become leaders.
- 85% feel that Scouts Canada gives them adequate training.

How good are these numbers?

"Other organizations and companies would kill for these results!" says, Dr. Darrell Bricker, Vice-President of Angus Reid. He spearheaded the research project.

Great News But...

"If our customers are so satisfied, why does membership keep going down?" This is a question I asked myself.

Despite the high approval rating, the survey also highlighted areas

needing improvement. Some members indicated they would probably not stay in Scouting for more than a couple of years more. Their reasons:

- lack of time,
- bored (lost appeal),
- dislike the way the program is run,
- outgrown the program.

Why not offer Scouting modules?

Are You Flexible?

How flexible is your program? If your members complain about the time commitment Scouting requires — eight to nine months of weekly meetings, and a myriad of weekend activities — do you provide creative alternatives?

Why not offer monthly meetings?

Or, instead of a 40-week program, you could offer 4-10 week Scouting "modules." Members could sign up for any number of modules, depending on their interests and other time commitments. They would get the benefit of the Scouting program, their schedules would be more manageable, and we might not need to say "goodbye" to so many youth.

Youth Want Constant Change

A fresh and innovative program will prevent boredom and keep members happily involved.

Some other results raised a red (or at least a yellow) flag. Youth members struggle with Scouting's image, and wonder about its relevance. While

Angus Reid Group, the renowned Canadian research company, conducted interviews with 1,200 Scouting "customers" to gauge how satisfied and happy they were with Scouting. The results were promising; members and their parents appreciate and value your volunteer efforts.

they enjoy Scouting, many are ashamed about their involvement (and the uniform they wear).

- 37% of youth members think Scouting is out of touch with Canadian young people.
- 29% are embarrassed to tell their friends that they are involved in Scouting.
- 65% (a low number, according to Dr. Bricker) like the uniforms we wear.

Interviews with adult leaders also showed room for improvement:

- 26% of leaders say Scouting is out of touch with young people.
- 50% agreed that Scouts Canada needs to do a better job of evaluating and giving feedback to its leaders

Now What?

Service Scouters, when did you last visit a section to offer help or feedback to a leader? According to the survey, they'd like to see you more often.

Scouts Canada is examining these survey results closely. Not only do we want to improve our youth programs, but we want to offer it to more and more young people.

This Angus Reid survey was informative, but the learning doesn't stop here. We've finished only Stage One of a plan involving ongoing and constant research.

This fall, Angus Reid will conduct a survey aimed at the general public. We want to find out what non-Scouting Canadians think about our Movement. We're also planning "exit surveys" with members who have recently left Scouting.

Look for further research results in **the Leader**. ↘