

SCOUTS CANADA

the leader

June/July 1997

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Giant Adventure

TARANTULAS • BUILDING TRAILS • WILDERNESS HIKING

What Happened to the Great News?

by Andy McLoughlin

Does Scouting have much to celebrate? Not according to some e-mail messages on Scouting chat groups.

Everyday, participants post sometimes-nasty messages on a wide range of subjects including:

- declarations about our "ugly" tan uniform shirts,
- complaints about our blue Cub badges,
- assertions regarding the "terrible" new Scout program, and
- criticism describing the new Rover motto as "silly."

Some participants post up to twelve protesting messages in a single day. People are certainly entitled to their opinions, but do these negative debates do anything to further Scouting's Mission and Principles?

Over 180,000 young people benefit from the Movement each year whether they wear green shirts, tan shirts or potato sacks. They benefit if the Cubs proudly wear blue badges, yellow badges, or a combination of both. They benefit if a Rover takes positive personal meanings from the word "Service" or "Action."

Changes to the Scout and Venturer program are a magnet for many negative comments from chat groups.

Whether you agree or disagree with the new program, you can't argue that the new goals and awards structures reflect and give practical examples of Scouting's



"There's good news all around us!"

Photo: Paul Pritch

ing's Mission and Principles. Many caring volunteers put a lot of thought, effort, and consultation into developing these new programs.

If you have a constructive concern or criticism about a Scouting issue, contact the National Office directly. We'll be glad to discuss it with you.

Let's Celebrate

Chat group participants say they mirror the issues most Scouters are talking about across the country. I hope not, because we have a lot to congratulate each other for; I see little of it on chat groups.

What good news?

For the first time in fifteen years, more members across Canada are enjoying and learning from our programs. 1997 looks good, with another increase predicted. Great news!

Over 11,000 of our members are signed up for the fun and adventure of CJ'97. We have new and enhanced volunteer screening procedures to help ensure our youth are safe while participating in our programs. We are introducing better leadership training courses so Scouters can provide a more exciting and enticing program.

Media clippings come in every week from across the country about members who have used their Scouting skills to save a life, clean the environment, or better their community. Collectively,

we have positively affected the lives of many youth. Let's celebrate that achievement, rather than dwell on negative issues.

When you meet with other Scouters or join an electronic chat group to look at the past Scouting year, reflect on the Movement's achievements and progress. Remember, you helped make it happen! While you personally may not agree with every decision, recognize that the volunteers who make them passionately care about the Movement and want to ensure the terrific news of this past Scouting year continues well into the future.

Good Scouting! \

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The Canadian Leader Magazine

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"Here we go!"

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Take a Hike on the Wild Side

Three Scouting groups sent us their accounts of well-planned wilderness hiking trips. Each one avoided dangers by being fully prepared for the unexpected. All built the planning and preparation for these trips into their overall Scouting programs with great results.

Before you set off with your Cubs, Scouts or Venturers, make sure you're as ready as these backpackers.

"It's Like Camping in a Freezer"

by Dave Armstrong

"Get up! Get up!"

The voice came loudly through the tent walls. I'm cold, tired and feel like I haven't gone to sleep yet, but my watch said 4:30 a.m. I moan. The second day of the 85th Venturers (Calgary) high alpine weekend camp had just begun. We set out with light packs, leaving our campsite behind.

The day before, we had climbed high up the side of a valley in the Rocky Mountains to the Robertson Glacier. Here we pitched our tents on the ice and snow.

Though it's mid-July, all of us are wearing full winter gear. We're here after three years training that involved intensive winter camping, many climbing courses, strenuous (but fun) hiking and backpacking trips, as well as orienteering practice. All this was vital to ensure a safe and worry-free trip. This glacier is no place for the inexperienced.

Three and a half hours later, we were still climbing. Our early start helped us begin under a full moon lighting our way. The bowl-like glacier amplified the light so much that our path was well lit, even though sides of the glaciers lay in deep shadow. We travelled early so the snow would provide firm footing. (As the sun comes up, the snow softens and becomes wet. The base can give out easily, and climbers will "post hole" up to their waist many kilometres from solid

ground.) Before this happened, we had sought firmer ground to continue our adventure.

Even high on the glacier is considered grizzly country, so we maintained our usual clean camp procedure by cooking away from tents. We put all clothes worn while cooking in the food packs and hung them in trees — safe from grizzlies, but not ravens!

Skilful Leaders

The rope teams were led by Venturers who chose the climbing routes and probed with ice axes at each step looking for dangerous crevices.

They also checked each snow bridge over the crevices and decided whether these were strong enough to carry our weight. Our two paid guides followed at the rear, though they were keenly alert to decisions the Venturers made. We asked them to come along to give us further climbing instruction along the way and to help in case of emergency. (If your

risk analysis suggests possible trouble, spend the extra money for safety.)

For the rest of the day and weekend our perfect wilderness experience continued.

What made it perfect?

Partly, it was the weather and spectacular scenery that surrounded us. But without the many preparations that were built right into our Scouting program, the trip could have become a very dangerous nightmare.

One of the greatest lessons we learned was this: the more demanding the outing, the more thoughtful preparation it requires.

— Dave Armstrong is a physically fit, adventure-loving Scouter from Calgary, Alberta.

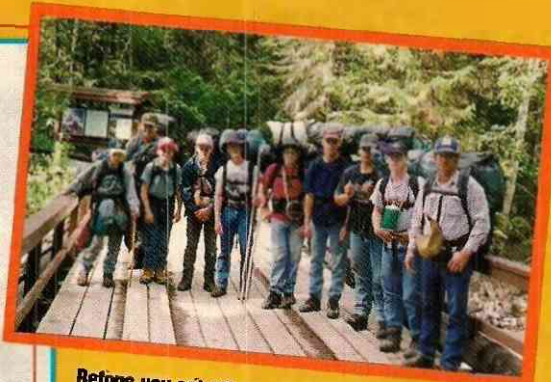
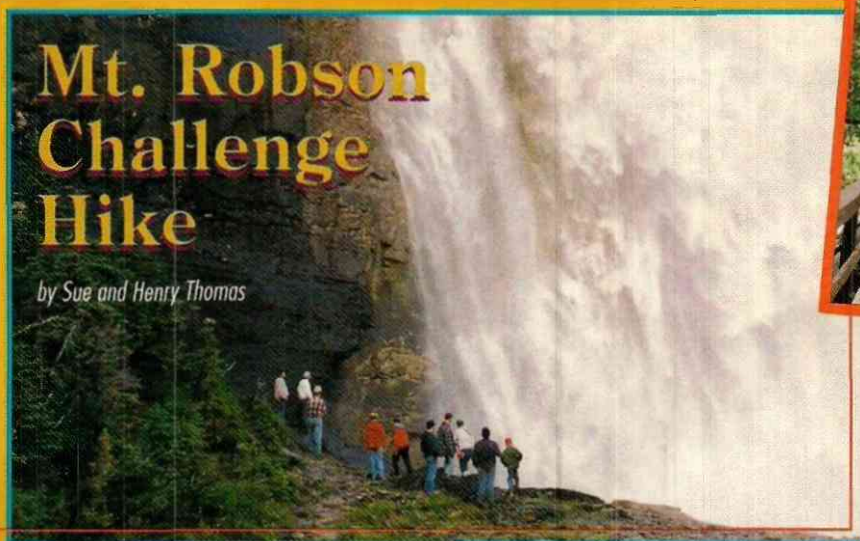


The difference between a disastrous trip and a great one might just involve practising several "self arrests."

Photos: Dave Armstrong

Mt. Robson Challenge Hike

by Sue and Henry Thomas



Before you set off on a long hike, make sure you've got good boots, lots of water and excellent packs.

The snow-white curtain of Emperor Falls is a dramatic site.

Very gruelling!

That's how all of our Scouts would describe the backpacking trip we took to Mt. Robson Provincial Park last August. Though it required great effort, the eight Scouts and their leaders from the 1st Alliance Troop, AB, enjoyed an indescribable adventure.

Preparations began months earlier when we decided on this trek and drew up a list of needs. It ranged from improving our camping, cooking and first aid abilities, to getting in better physical condition. Tying the preparations into badge work, we set off toward our distant Mt. Robson goal by "touching all the preliminary" safety bases. This helped build real purpose and excitement into our Scout program. Over the next months we camped, hiked and tuned up our gear in anticipation of the challenge.

The Scouts decided to carry everything they needed to survive five days: food, tents, sleeping bags, cooking equipment, fuel, clothing and camping gear. Most of the food consisted of dried items to help keep the weight down. Soon, we found ourselves at Mt. Robson.

"It's spectacular!"

Because we thought everyone would feel tired after a long drive to the mountain, we only planned a short seven kilometre hike into our first camp. Here we set up tents, ate a hot meal, and got to bed early.

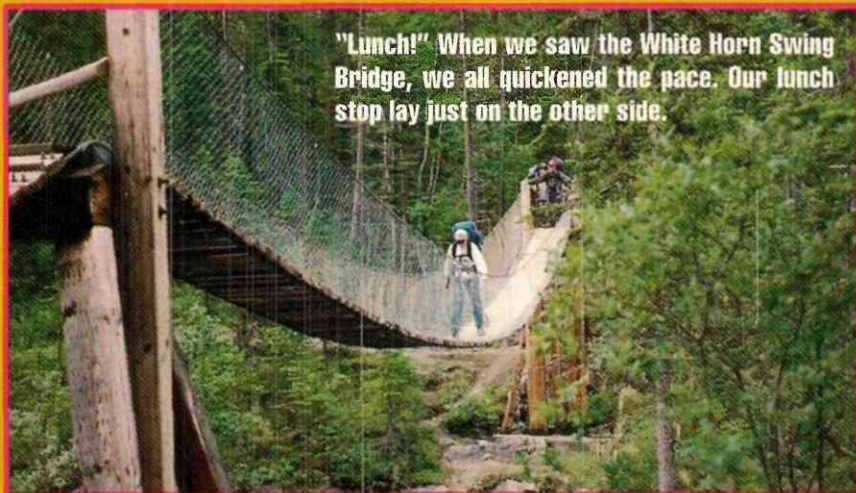
The next day we rose early, hiked to Valley of the Thousand Falls, had lunch, then set off on a tough 500 metre climb to our next campsite. We arrived several hours later and set up our tents just before it started to pour rain. Later, after a hot supper, we snuggled into our sleeping bags within several metres of the roaring Robson River.

When day 3 dawned, our tents were wrapped in a blanket of thick fog. After a hearty breakfast, we headed off toward Toboggan Falls; within an hour the fog had lifted giving a spectacular view of the Mist Glacier and Mt. Robson.

Over the next days we explored caves and splashed in alpine lakes. Throughout it all, our preparations — especially for cold, wet weather — helped us enjoy the trip.

Before you can truly enjoy a demanding wilderness hike, you've got to anticipate the challenges ahead. If you do, you'll be able to echo our words: "An unforgettable experience!"

— Scouters Sue and Henry Thomas from Alliance, AB, know what to do when someone says, "Take a hike."



"Lunch!" When we saw the White Horn Swing Bridge, we all quickened the pace. Our lunch stop lay just on the other side.

Photo: Sue Thomas

HIKING FUNDAMENTALS

- Make sure you're physically ready for a demanding hike. Get in shape before you go.
- Test out all your equipment, including boots, on shorter hikes.
- Walk with a buddy if your group has to break up.
- Always carry a first aid kit and make sure people know how to use it.
- Talk or make some sort of small noise if you're walking in bear country.
- Before venturing into bear country,

practise playing dead holding the back of your neck, and lying in the fetal position. (This only works for polar and grizzly bears — not black bears.)

- Carry a good water filter and watch that you don't clog it with silt.
- Carry lots of water and stop to drink it regularly.
- Everyone should carry whistles and practise sending a recognizable 'code' to each other, e.g. three short blasts mean we're in trouble.

Grand Canyon, Grand Hike

by Mike Corpe

Our 18th Red Deer Troop spends much of its energy either preparing for wilderness hiking adventures, or actually on the trail. Last year we focused the Scouting program on developing camp skills for a hike into the Grand Canyon. All this built toward our youth members earning their Chief Scout Award.

As well as honing first aid and emergency skills, we studied how to avoid (and treat) dehydration and snake bites. Brainstorming together, the troop tried to anticipate every conceivable difficulty and problem we would face. Then we structured our Scouting program to meet the challenge. We insisted that everyone earn their silver achievement level in First Aid and Safety, as well as Exploring and Campcraft. A two-day St. John Ambulance Standard First Aid course met many of these requirements.

Drumheller Test Run

By early June our Scouts were definitely ready, but a tough hike through

the Alberta badlands tested our preparations. Carrying full Grand Canyon-simulated packs, our troop split up into manageable groups and started the badlands trek. Though one reason for this weekend trip was to find out how much water we would need in the future Grand Canyon trek, it rained for much of the hike. Oh, well. We were prepared for the unexpected. By the end of this great weekend, everyone knew we were ready.

Hot, Sticky, but Fun!

In July, 32 of us arrived at the Grand Canyon with anticipation running high. Quickly we split up into our pre-arranged hiking groups. Each group contained Scouts with the same hiking skills level. Soon we set off on

different trails matched to our abilities. Over the next ten days we explored the raw wilderness beauty, and pushed our confidence levels to new heights.

What did the Scouts gain from such a trip involving intensive training?

They all learned self-reliance and teamwork. As well, every one of them eventually earned their Chief Scout Award — a testament to the leadership skills they gained. For us leaders, the trip was both fun and rewarding just to watch how these young people could focus on a major project for one year and achieve their goal. Fantastic!

— Mike Corpe lives in Red Deer, Alberta, when he isn't hiking with his troop in the mountains.

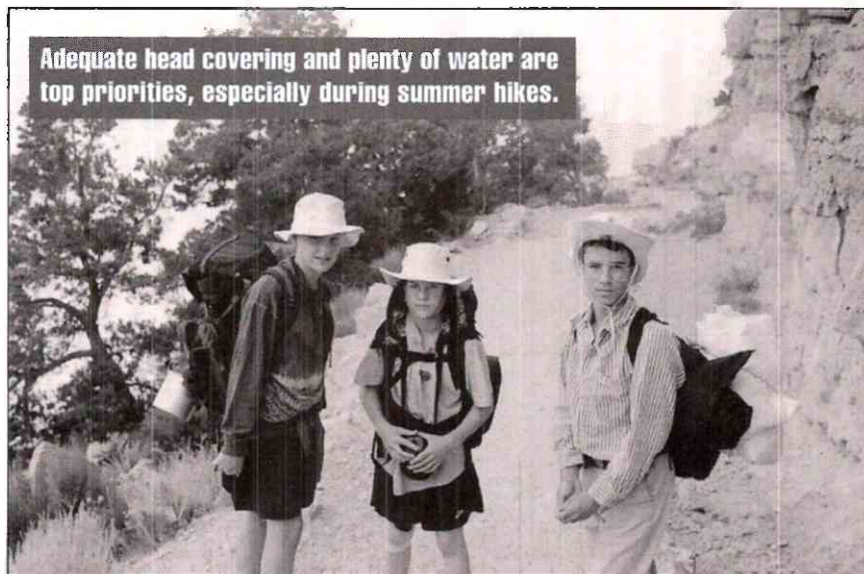


Photo: Mike Corpe

Choose the Best List

Study the four hiking equipment lists below. Get your Cubs and Scouts to put them in order, the best list first. Discuss your choices when finished.

List A

Ground sheet
Sleeping bag
Shirt and shorts
Toiletry items
Towel
Pyjamas
2 T-shirts
2 water bottles
Plate and cup
Knife, fork, spoon
Map

List B

Shirt and shorts
Toiletry items
Towel
2 water bottles
Raincoat
Pair of socks
First aid kit
Compass
Flashlight
Knife and spoon
Extra jacket
Candle
Matches

Notebook and pen

List C

Ground sheet
Toiletry items
Extra clothes
Towel
Notebook and pencil
Candle
Spare boot laces
Waterproof container
2 Water bottles
Matches
Walking stick
Raincoat
Groundsheet

List D

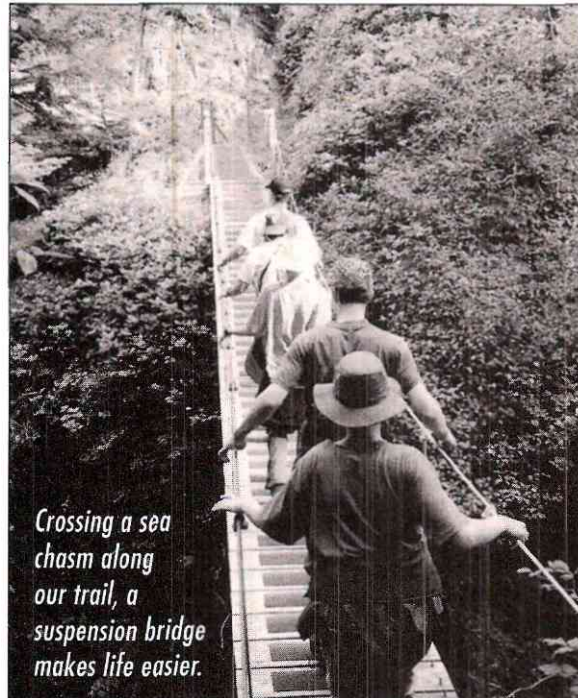
Radio
Sunglasses
2 litres Coke or Pepsi
2 packages of biscuits
Gas cooker (with lighter and pot)
Soccer ball
Tent
Frying pan
Walking stick
Broad-brimmed sun hat
Rubber boots

AMORY ADVENTURER AWARD HIKING THE CAPE SCOTT TRAIL

by the 83rd Calgary "C" Venturer Company

"We wanted to do something really different!"

That's what Venturers from the 83rd Calgary "C" Company decided when they were planning their 1995 Amory Adventure Award attempt. It wasn't long before Chris Koch, Dean Spankie, Gary Oates, Michael Forseth, David Frew, Gibson Scott, and their advisor Tracey Stock picked Vancouver Island's Cape Scott Trail. Their trip won third place in the 1995 Award. Here's their story.



Crossing a sea chasm along our trail, a suspension bridge makes life easier.

Cape Scott drew our attention because it's a rugged and secluded trail on the northern tip of Vancouver Island. The trail winds through dense Pacific rain forest and traces a route along oceanic beaches before reaching the Cape. The area is well known for its torrential rains, so we picked one of the drier months (August).

The trail also passes through the century-old site of several abandoned pioneer settlements. The ghost towns piqued our interest. We had to see them. Soon we had finalized our plans.

Last year we canoed the Athabasca River. Our members were comfortable in the wilderness and had many outdoor skills just begging to be used more. Cape Scott was the perfect outlet.

"Here we go!"

On July 29 we set out in our van for the long drive to the trail. Late in the evening the following night we arrived, greeted by a heavy downpour. Next morning the rain was still pelting our tents. We quickly divided up the gear and headed out.

The first portion of the trail was well drained with bridges across really muddy sections. The dense forest and wide

variety of plants amazed us. The trees dwarfed anything we saw in Alberta's Kananaskis Country.

We reached Eric Lake, the home of one Dutch settlement, within an hour. Thick fog hugged the water, reminding all of us of Yoda's home in *The Empire Strikes Back*. We soon set off again. The trail grew rapidly worse, but more fun. Natural bridges spanned the rivers and mud challenged us at every step.

At Fisherman's River we came to another abandoned settlement: this one a major farming attempt. Many artifacts (including ploughs, wagon wheels



At times we faced some major road blocks like these trees.

and bed frames) are still evident. Not far away we came to a sunny beach on Fisherman's Bay. Here the rotting

remains of an old ship lie. It sunk almost a century ago, and washed ashore.

Nearby we set up camp, lit a reluctant fire and prepared hamburgers and tortillas. After an icy dip in the ocean, we retreated to our sleeping bags. The dream fairy arrived shortly afterwards.

Onward to Adventure

We woke to a clear, sunny morning and were soon on the trail again. Later in the day we noticed that the ravioli and chili which we had emptied from a can into triple-thickness ziplock bags to save on hiking weight, had ballooned outward in their bags. Puzzled, we smelled the food and found both were rancid. It's a good thing we had brought along

extra noodles and sauce, just in case. That night we slept on a soft bed of sand that would have rivalled any mattress. Sheer comfort!

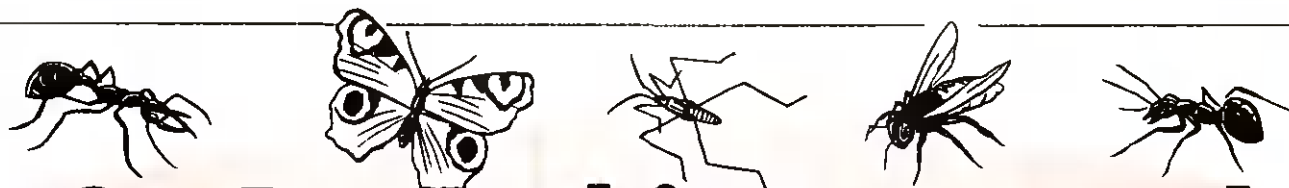
Several days later we found some caves and climbed around them briefly. It's unsafe to explore caves without the proper equipment and training. We took note of this wisdom and continued our trek without mishap.

Grand Finale

This hiking trip really knit our company together. As our teamwork grew, so did mutual respect for each other. Better judgement also arrived; here's an example. At the very end of the trip we wanted to reach our vehicles by nightfall. After stopping and discussing the possible dangers of hiking over wet, muddy and sometimes steep trails at night, we reached a more sensible decision. We shed some of our "Just go for it!" attitude and considered the consequences. This approach to decision-making wasn't any less adventurous, just more objective and responsible.

How would we summarize the experience?

A lot of fun! ^



Go Bugs this Summer!

by Hazel Hallgren

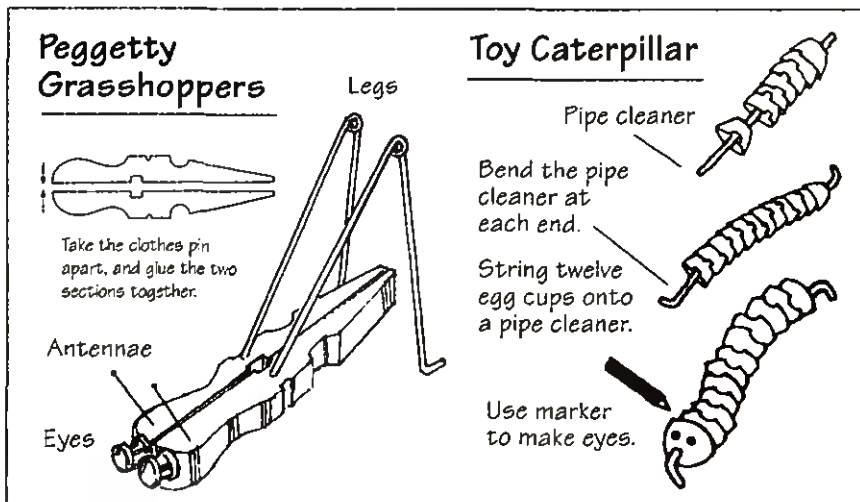
INSECTS FASCINATE AND SCARE CHILDREN. Here are ideas that Beavers in Red Deer, Alberta, have field tested successfully during summer, fall and spring meetings. A bug theme would also make an interesting camp program.

Mosquito Tag

This game is played much like regular tag except everyone has two coupons with a bug spray can pictured on them. If a child is just about to be "stung" (tagged) by the "mosquito" (IT), she can give the mosquito a bug spray coupon. When the coupons are used up, all protection is gone and the game speeds up.

Peggetty Grasshoppers

This grasshopper makes a fun craft for Beavers. You'll need a wooden clothes pin, 2 large safety pins (6 cm), 2 small, flat-headed pins (1.5 cm), 2 small tacks, glue, and green, pink and black paint.



Take the clothes pin apart, and glue the two sections together. (See diagram) Dry 8 hours, then sand the grasshopper. Using wire cutters, cut off the flat head of the safety pins and bend them out to act as feet. Attach the legs by making two little holes in the clothes pin with a hammer and a very small nail. Insert the point of the safety pins into the holes and glue the legs. Let dry. Put in the eyes (tacks) and the antennae (small pins). Paint everything green; use other colours to add drama.

Mosquito Cheer

This cheer works well around a campfire. It's very popular with children of all ages. Sit your Beavers or Cubs in a circle. A leader runs around the outside pointing to individual Beavers who start buzzing. When everyone is buzzing as loud as possible, they should clap their hands together and shout, "ZAP!!"

Toy Caterpillar

Caterpillars turn into beautiful butterflies and moths. As you make this toy, talk about how caterpillars spin cocoons which are their homes for several weeks as the transformation takes place.

You will need an egg carton, scissors, a black marker, and a very long pipe cleaner (or several twisted together). Cut out each egg cup from the carton so you have twelve little cups.

Poke a hole in the centre of each cup and thread a pipe cleaner through all twelve. Bend the pipe cleaner at each end so the cups won't come off. (See diagram)

Mark on eyes and a face at one end.

Night Walk

Beavers and Cubs will enjoy a night walk. Try to limit the number of people with flashlights. Look for fire flies, moths, and other insect life. Start out by just listening quietly in the still

Use this simple program outline to plan your own bug theme night.

Beaver Meeting Schedule Theme: Bugs Date: _____			
Time	Activity	Program Details	Leader
10 mins.	Gathering activity	Toy Caterpillar	
5 mins.	Opening ceremony	See Beaver Leader's Handbook	
10 mins.	Game	Mosquito Tag	
20 mins.	Theme activity	Peggetty Grasshoppers	
10 mins.	Song	There Was An Old Lady	
10 mins.	Lodge meeting	Discuss how to take care of bugs, plants and people in need of help.	
5 mins.	Spiritual fellowship	Prayer, recite Law/Promise	
5 mins.	Closing ceremony	See Beaver Leader's Handbook	
15 mins.	Leader discussion time	Review meeting and discuss next week's plans	

night. Can you hear any insects? If you hear and see a bat swooping overhead, talk about how they find their insect meal by a type of airborne radar.

Watch for blinking fire flies in the air and grass. If you see one, get down on your hands and knees and take a look at it. Flash your light at it several times, then stop. Does it answer back with a flash? What other bugs can you see in the grass?

Guess the Answer

Here's a good question and answer quiz that's easily adapted for Cubs.

1. I make a clicking sound and I hop. (Grasshopper)
2. You may want to put my food on your toast. (Bee)
3. You always "shoo" me away from your food. (Flies)
4. I start as a caterpillar and now am very beautiful to look at. (Butterfly)
5. I have 4 wings but I don't breath fire. (Dragonfly)
6. I pick up litter from the forest floor and carry it to my hill. (Ants)
7. I have 8 legs and it may rain if you step on me. (Spider)

Thanks a Lot!

This prayer ended our night.

We thank you God, for giving
us our sight;
Thank you for the fireflies
that shine so bright,
That we can see on a
summer's night.
Thank you for the sunshine,
our daytime light,



Photo: Paul Ritchie

Encourage your Beavers and Cubs to get down on their hands and knees to look for bugs. They'll be amazed where they find them.

To see bugs, insects, butterflies in flight,
Thanks for all the bugs we enjoy and like.

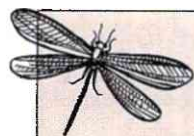
Bugs are great! Beavers and Cubs just can't get enough of them, even though they might say, "Yuck!" Treat your group to a heapin' helpin' of them.

Resources

- *Bugs, Firefly Pocket Guides*. Valuable for answering questions and to make up quiz questions.
- *Sid the Mosquito*, by Colin Thompson, General Publishing. This wonderful little book is filled with short stories about bugs and wild animals.

- *Backyard Bugs* (ISBN 0-86734-285-4, a Frank Schaffer publication) is a terrific puzzle with 48 pieces which fit together to make a giant floor puzzle measuring 1.5 metres long. Highly recommended!

— Hazel Hallgren is an active Scouter in Red Deer, Alberta.



WEIRD FACTS



- Insects outnumber man by more than 300,000 to 1.
- Only the female mosquito sucks blood from humans and animals.
- Insects are masters of camouflage. They change colour to match their surroundings, and their shapes blend in with the trees. This helps them avoid predators.
- Before a mosquito starts drinking your blood she injects a chemical that helps your blood flow faster. It also deadens the bite feeling.



Look closely at the water next time you're canoeing. It might be alive with skater bugs.

Photo: Mike Corpe



DID YOU KNOW...?



- Ninety percent of the world's living creatures are insects.
- Bugs live almost everywhere: soil, pasture land and woodlands. Scientists have found as many as 300 million insects per acre! Bugs can be found in steamy rainforests, and on high-altitude mountain glaciers. They even live at the South Pole!
- Bugs have been around for 300 million years.
- Insects help the forest by eating litter on the forest floor. They also spread pollen and seeds.
- A grasshopper's ears, which work much like human ears, are located in its front knees.
- When you see a swarm of dragonflies zigzagging close to the ground, they're probably hunting for mosquitoes — a favourite meal for them.

"My Bug's a Fast Mover!"

by Ethel Demain

When planning a district-wide program for an all-day Saturday event, our leaders were looking for a theme with an interesting twist. Here's what we did.

When over 200 Beavers and leaders entered our meeting location, we gave each child crayons and paper to draw an imaginary bug.

"What would a nightmare bug look like?" we asked. This was just the question our Beavers wanted to hear! Their eyes lit up excitedly. Soon, their vivid imaginations created some horrible creatures, which we taped on the walls.

Wasp Balloons

During the day the children rotated through activity stations at 15 minute intervals. These stations included insect songs (adapted from well-known tunes), bug games, insect stories and puppet making. One craft involved making a garden bug with pipe cleaners and black wool. A local naturalist used slides and enormous bug models to entertain us with stories about insect life in our backyards. Fascinating!

Our popular games included "leap frog" (changed to "cricket and grasshopper"). Another well-liked game involved yellow balloons coloured with black markers to look like wasps. Each Beaver received one of these wasp balloons. Working in teams, Beavers had to buzz loudly while keeping their balloons in the air for as long as possible. Great fun!

Bug Racers

Our most important activity involved making and racing bug toys. These included everything from bumblebees and spiders, to lady bugs and other creepy crawlies. Leaders brought all the necessary materials: egg cartons, markers, marbles, scissors, pipe cleaners, ziplock bags and a track. (The bags were to hold the bugs until race time.)

How do you make the bug racers? Simply cut out the individual cones from an egg carton. Let your Beavers cut the cones down so a marble can fit



Photo: Allen MacCormey

"They're off and waddling down the track! We sure aren't breaking any speed limits here."

under each. (It's important to cut enough from each cup that the marble can act as a wheel under the bug.) Each child can decorate her bug with legs, antennae, feelers, wings, pinchers and fangs — whatever strikes their fancy. Because the bug must sit on a track, make sure legs and feelers rise above the ground.

Make the racing ramp for about \$20 from a piece of plywood (8' x 2') covered with carpet. Attach four tracks using lengths of I-beam drapery track. (See diagram) You can build a starting mechanism as fancy as you wish or just let your Beavers put their bugs on the track and turn them loose when you say, "GO!"

Mid-way through the afternoon, we held our races. It took a while to run 200 excited Beavers and their favourite bug creations down the track, but in several hours everyone had raced to

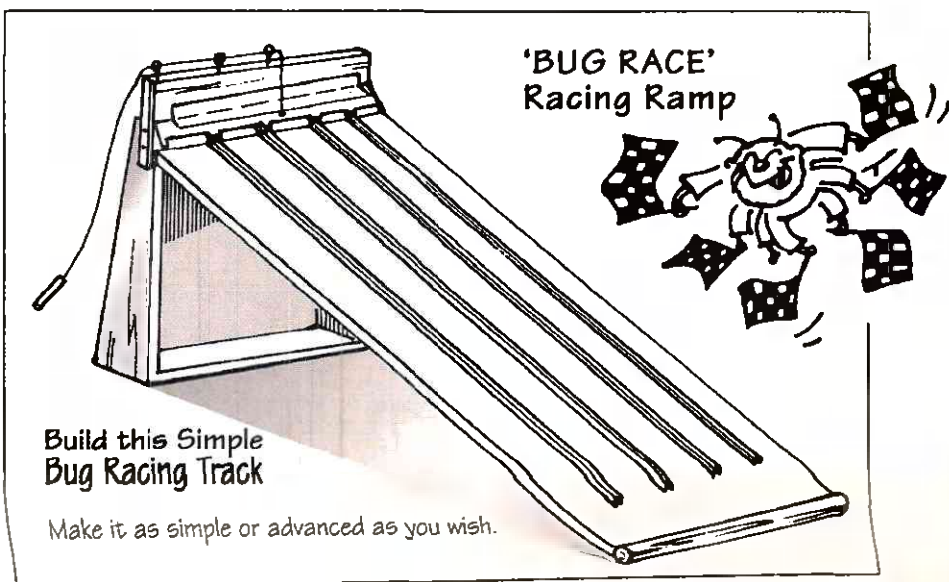
their heart's content. Make sure no one keeps score, so everyone who races is considered a winner.

This bug race and insect theme makes an excellent spring linking event with Cubs, as it has definite tie-ins to the kub kar program. Why not ask several packs to help out at your bug races? Cubs could bring their kars and demonstrate kub kar construction, while they act as bug race officials.

Our racing bugs didn't zip down the track as fast as kub kars do, but everyone had a wonderful time.

"Ladies and gentlemen. Start your engines. Oops! I mean start your buzzing." ^

— Ethel Demain is ADC (Colony) in Ontario's Fruitbelt District. Before this event she "bugged" many Scouters, looking for ideas.



Tarantulas: The Biting Truth

by Stan Williams

"Tarantulas on the loose!!"

What would you do if you heard these words?

Probably you'd jump to your feet panicked, and think a painful death was just waiting for you, lurking under the seat. But the tarantula myth isn't true.

Though tarantulas aren't warm, cuddly little sweeties, they are very pleasant pets. Our Cub pack found that out last year when we invited two experts, Stan and Marguerite Schultz, to our meeting. Stan and Marguerite love tarantulas so much that they wrote a book entitled *The Tarantula Keeper's Guide*.

Our meeting opened with a short Hollywood film clip showing a man getting bitten by a tarantula. Immediately he went into painful convulsions, then spasms. Death followed quickly.

"All lies!" said Stan as he turned off the VCR. "I've been bitten many times, and I'm doing fine. No convulsions, no spasms, and definitely no death."

"Don't Scare Him!"

The best part of the evening was handling and touching the spiders. When they came out of the cages, all myths about "man killers" disappeared. But, not all Cubs wanted to hold the tarantulas. (They do look pretty horrible!) Some Cubs wouldn't even come near.

Before touching the giant spiders, we had to learn how to act around them. Stan had a twenty minute slide show that told us everything we needed to know. It really piqued our Cubs' interest. "Wow! They're neat!" several shouted.

The slides told us where tarantulas live, what they eat, and how they breathe and mate.

Hairy Beasts

Tarantulas use their hair as both a sensory organ and a defence mech-



"Big Bertha's tickling my hand!"

Photo: Stan Williams

anism. They can sense vibration, touch and even "smell" scents with these hairs. During mating the hair is particularly useful because it helps the female find the right guy! Very important.

What about the hair as a defence mechanism? Each hair has tiny barbs on the end. If a spider is being chased, she can rub some hairs off on an attacker's face. These get lodged in the enemy's breathing passages and cause irritation.

But what about teeth? The primary defence equipment, the fangs, are used to sting prey and to kill small predators. The spider won't inject venom if the bite is intended as a warning.

Tarantula anatomy is very interesting. You'll find many organs, like the heart and lungs, in the back end. The lung openings are underneath the spider, while the head contains the eyes, fangs, mouth, brain and stomach.

The star of the evening was a spider called "Big Bertha" — a real Goliath of a tarantula. When fully stretched out, she can cover a dinner

plate! My favourite is the "Mexican Red-Kneed" tarantula. It has bright orange legs. The one we held was named "Duchess"; she's over 30 years old.

Tarantula Pets

Tarantulas make great pets, but some are very aggressive and like to bite. (Ask your pet store owner or a local tarantula club for advice.) My son has a "Tenax Brown" tarantula. He feeds and pets her just as he would most any other animal. She needed to be tamed, but that took only several handlings before she calmed down.

If you buy a tarantula, you'll need a large supply of crickets to feed them. Think about this problem before you buy. It might be easy to find crickets in summer, but how will you feed your tarantula in winter?

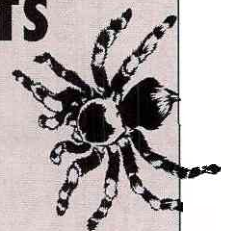
Tarantulas would be an fascinating way for your Cubs to earn their Pet Care Badge. Interesting and different!

Program Links

Naturalist Badge, Canadian Wilderness Award, Pet Care Badge, Canadian Family Care Award, Collector Badge, Canadian Arts Award, World Conservation Badge.

— Stan Williams juggles so many Scouting tasks in Calgary, you'd think he had eight arms (or legs)!

TARANTULA FACTS



- Tarantulas are carnivores. They eat insects and small rodents.
- Females may live up to 40 years, males to 15 years.
- Tarantulas have two skeletons: one inside, one outside.
- Tarantula "litters" might include up to 1,000 babies hatched from eggs.

How to Build a Nature Trail



Have you ever wanted to build a nature trail?

It's a great opportunity to teach Scouting youth about the environment and how their choices can preserve or wipe out bird and animal habitat. But you can't just decide to build a trail and march out with shovels to accomplish the task.

One activity at the British Columbia and Yukon Provincial Jamboree two years ago involved developing a nature trail at Camp Hughes. Here are some thoughts to consider before you set out.

Why Build a Trail?

You might not need a trail if cross-country travel is already acceptable or only a handful of people use the route each year. Building a trail is a good choice whenever you anticipate large numbers of people through an area.

The main function of a trail is to provide safe and easy access to a region that others might like to visit. Each trail is the result of an environmental choice: sacrifice a little in a controlled manner to preserve and protect a larger environmental system.

A single stream runs through the southern portion of Camp Hughes. For decades this area has been heavily populated by beavers, which have built many dams and lodges. Not only has their activity modified the valley, but it's also changed the ecology. The valley floor is entirely wetlands (ponds and marshes), with willow being the dominant vegetation.

Because the valley is very interesting, the camp decided to build a nature trail to allow easy access to those wishing to watch beaver activity.

Our decision-making paid attention to the valley, which has steep slopes and distinct vegetation on both sides.

The south side is dominated by white spruce, moss and shrubs, while the north side has pine and grasses with many wild flowers. The trail had to pass through both these to give viewers the best experience.

But what would the final trail look like? We decided to make the trail accessible for as many people as possible, regardless of age. This meant we had to build it in a certain way to make walking easy.

Making Informed Choices

Trail builders can choose many construction techniques and styles to suit the locale. We decided that a looped



trail would best suit our purposes. It would allow hikers to visit the three vegetation areas without backtracking on the trail. Unfortunately there were several "down sides":

- a looped trail meant two stream crossings.
- the trail would have to climb out of the valley to the ridge, cross the valley, and traverse the opposite side along a steep slope.

Important Concerns

Two important factors relating to trail building involve soil characteristics and topography. Different soil types require different construction designs. Clay was the dominant soil along our trail. Soils composed of clay need special construction. Why? They're highly erodible.

Trail builders must take care to ensure their pathway is well drained, especially along steep slopes. Water erosion and surface pooling may not only damage the path, but cause further ecological damage by hikers walking around unnecessary water obstacles.

We also had to find a place where we could build a stream crossing in a dense willow marsh. What a challenge! Fortunately someone discovered a fallen log across the stream which helped us during construction. This minimized the potential damage to the stream bed caused by many energetic builders.

Trail Building Techniques

Steep slopes. They are big problems.

Your group can use several techniques for gaining or losing elevation when faced with this difficulty. In one section of our trail the path had to rise quickly on a very steep grade. Here, we built flights of stairs rather than a series of switchbacks. We wanted to avoid switchbacks because young hikers might be tempted to take shortcuts. This posed a danger and an environmental problem. As well, easily drained switchbacks are hard to build. Our stairs were con-

structed using pinned log cribbing. (See photographs)

In another section, we avoided using switchbacks by creating a trail with a sweeping series of turns with wide "waterbars." (Waterbars are structures built across the trail to slow the flow of water and redirect it off the

trail.) These acted as natural steps and encouraged drainage.

One problem we faced was an existing pathway that went straight down a gully and directly up the other side. Here we made the path traverse the slope at an easier hiking angle. We moved an already-existing rough bridge which crossed a seasonal stream in the gully. Now large and long waterbars di-

How?

When we needed material to build waterbars, cribbing or stairs, youth collected it a distance from the trail. In cases where we had to clear material from the pathway (e.g. downed trees), we either carried it to an area where it could be used, or moved it out of sight.

Building a trail provides an opportunity to raise the awareness of youth and adults of environmental issues

Ownership and Active Learning

Building this trail was not the main objective of the jamboree activity. It only provided a mechanism to raise the awareness of youth and adults of environmental issues; a new trail was the very beneficial byproduct. Participants also learned about trail building essentials, and got hands-on practice. Many will apply this new skill to home trails.

The 13 Venturers working on our project felt a real sense of ownership throughout. Repeatedly they used phrases like: "my bridge," "my steps" or "my group." Will this feeling of ownership make them more thoughtful hikers on other trails? Probably.

Help your own Scouts and Venturers to beautify their neighbourhood by fixing up or building a nature trail. The experience has many program links. A



vert water from the trail making a drier path. The changes also encourage hikers to look up and down the gully rather than straight up the other side — a vast improvement.

Throughout the entire project we sought to limit the environmental impact of construction.

— Paul Whitfield, Doug Stanbrook & Wayne Jardine are Scouters in Fraser Valley Region, BC. They were members of the Environment Canada team at PJ'95.

Camp Gadgets and Other Lemons

The mis-adventures of a technogadget buyer

by Michael Lee Zwiers

Camp gadgets.

Some actually do what they're supposed to; others look great in the store, but once in the bush, they fail terribly. We've all seen incredible

camp gadgets, such as pocket knives with enough attachments to keep James Bond out of trouble. This kind usually comes with a full set of cutlery. Of course, how do you hold down your steak with the fork and cut it at the same time?

Then there's the collapsible camp chair. If you can manage to assemble it into something resembling a stool, it works more like a leg-hold trap. I've bought plastic egg containers that serve better as egg scramblers. Have you seen the breathable jackets that claim to be waterproof? They are, as long as you don't get near anything wetter than condensation.

Over the years I've purchased many of these items. In fact, I've probably earned my place in Scouting history as one of the greatest suckers for new camping gadgets. Here are some stories of my more spectacular failures.

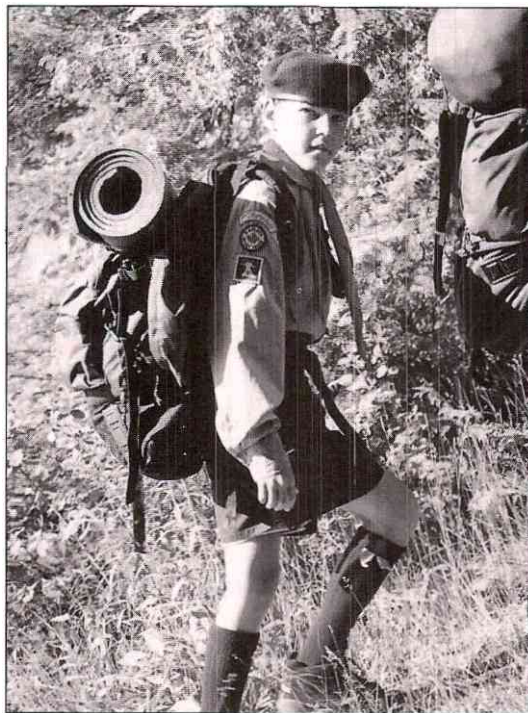
Floating Flashlights

The print on the package leaped out at me: "Indestructible flashlight! Floats upright! Solid plastic casing withstands shocks! Intense beam!" Within minutes I had handed over my cash.

I've camped for many years and have yet to find a flashlight capable of withstanding the front-line action of an outdoor Scout camp. My previous light came encased in a layer of heavy rubber that I hoped would handle all forms of abuse. It couldn't.

This time, however, I was certain I had made the definitive purchase. For the princely sum of \$10.99 I had the best flashlight that money could buy. Until I saw the commercial on television where a man hurled his flashlight down on the road to prove that it would withstand mistreatment, I didn't believe that such a thing existed. I had

been convinced that flashlights, like water pistols, were designed to disintegrate almost immediately. But this one held great promise.



*You've got a new pack? Great!
But have you checked it out before leaving home?*

The night before camp, my dreams were filled with daring escapades and pursuits where my faithful flashlight survived all kinds of treachery and abuse. Once at camp, I could hardly contain my excitement over my new purchase and waited with bated breath until nightfall. As soon as the shadows had lengthened enough that a flashlight would not appear out of place, I

plunged into my pack and pulled out my acquisition. With a satisfaction that bordered on smugness, I shared my prize with the Scouts and other leaders. An admiring group gathered round to view it.

"Bright light," someone said.

"That's the one on the commercial!" someone added.

"It's supposed to be indestructible! Throw it on the ground and see if it still works," another voice suggested. The group cleared space for a demonstration. Confidently, I threw it on the ground as I had seen the man on television do. It landed with a thud and continued shining.

"Cool!" one of the Scouts said with sincere admiration.

"Hey, let me try it!" said another who promptly picked the flashlight up and hurled it down with a force that horrified me. It landed with a sickening thunk and... continued shining. Suddenly, the Scouts were upon it and throwing my flashlight about with abandon, to cries of "Me next!" and "Hey, you had a turn already!"

My breathing quickened as I waded into the mob. "Now fellows, I know it's a tough flashlight, but let's not tempt fate." The assembly grew quiet, disappointed that their fun had been halted. I left while the Scouts looked on with a mixture of disappointment, envy and awe.

Later, we went down to the lake for a campfire. Then we strolled out on the dock to watch the flickering lights of cabins round the lake uniting with the stars overhead. Everyone stood

Photo: Paul Ritchie

in hushed silence for several minutes, before turning on flashlights and shining the beams into the water to catch the flitting shapes of fish in the depths below.

Suddenly the advertisement, "Floats Upright!" flashed into my mind. With blinding inspiration it hit: I could demonstrate how the flashlight floated and let my new purchase seal its position among the demigods of modern technology!

"Hey, fellows," I offered temptingly on the cool night air, "Did you know that this flashlight floats too?"

The responses were a mix of astonishment and amazement. "No! Really?"

One of my fellow Scouters was sceptical. "Are you sure?" Neil asked, holding his hand out for the flashlight. "Feels awful heavy to float," he said, weighing it in his palm.

"Of course I'm sure," I responded confidently, taking it back, and repeating what the advertisement said.

The group was quiet as I knelt on the dock and leaned out over the water. I felt the rising warmth of triumph coursing through me as I lowered the flashlight into the water, poised to let go. Some of the Scouts looked on with an awe that bordered on reverence. I savoured the moment. Victory was at hand! In a moment, my flashlight would join the ranks of the immortal. With a sigh of satisfaction, I released my grip.

Like a rock, the light dropped straight to the bottom of the lake and settled onto its side. I was aghast. Then, slowly, almost imperceptibly, it began to right itself until it pointed directly upwards, its beam knifing boldly upward from the lake bed.

"Sure it floats upright — on the bottom of the lake!" someone cackled. The group erupted into hysterical laughter. Meanwhile, I looked down at my flashlight resting under 10 feet of water and felt distinctly ill. Talk about a fall from grace.

As we meandered off the dock and returned to camp, I glanced back over my shoulder to see the reflection of cabin lights and stars twinkling merrily on the water. This time they had some competition from a little flashlight beaming brightly upward from the depths — at least until its batteries ran down.

The walk back to camp was a short one, but felt like an eternity. Every few minutes someone would make the terse two-word announcement: "Floats upright!" and the group would collapse in guffaws of laughter. Meanwhile,

I decided that no matter how sturdy the casing on this flashlight, I would never buy another like it. It was far too demoralizing.

Glitter Gloves

The flashy advertisement said the gloves would "reflect heat back to your

while tackling fiddly jobs in winter such as lighting matches or pumping up gas stoves.

The gloves looked great. Once on, however, they made me feel a bit sheepish — like some kind of disco superstar about to perform slick dance steps before bursting into song.

Never buy a technogadget on your own. *Bring a friend.*

hands." Thin to the point of outrage, these gloves had small flecks of metal (ostensibly some scientific space-age compound) woven into the fabric. I had never been able to find gloves thin enough to wear underneath mittens, yet warm enough to provide protection

A wise friend was duly sceptical. "Metal should conduct heat and cool your hands faster," he offered as he held my lightweight gloves aloft. "I don't see how they can work."

I didn't listen, and the gloves never did work. What about the neat metal



Photo: Paul Ritchie

"The soap ad boasted, 'Klondike miner face cleaner proven in the Yukon.' It doesn't work!"

flakes? They dropped off, leaving a glittery trail everywhere I went, making me appear like some modern day Tinkerbell.

Bug-Proof Hat

Canadian campers know what it's like to contend with insects. Mosquitoes, black flies, wasps, hornets, horse-

your neck. (Sure, I remember from my first aid training that one should never tie anything around the neck, but after all, this hat was used in the north.)

I dropped the hat over my head and tied the cords. I'm not claustrophobic, but I quickly came to appreciate what it must feel like. The hoops held the mesh away from my head, but the

Enthusiastic, gushing advertisements don't always tell the truth.

flies. The list is endless. I had tried the chemical solution. Liquid repellents such as DEET melt everything you touch and come with dire repercussions for your long-term health. Sprays tend to be less toxic but still wash into your eyes and mouth when you get sweaty. The results can be agonizing.

Browsing through a camping store, my eyes fell on an enticing sign: "Bug-proof hat used in the north." I bought the hat immediately.

When I arrived home and removed the wrapper, I discovered that the hat was actually a series of plastic hoops with a tight mesh nylon draped over top, and a drawstring to tie around

fabric blurred my vision. After bumping my way around the living room in full daylight, I realized that I wasn't going to be able to manoeuvre easily at camp, especially in the evening when insects are at their worst. Then it struck me: how would I eat or drink with this high-tech contraption on? And if a mosquito did get inside, how would I get it out without knocking myself senseless? These thoughts overwhelmed me. As my blood pressure rose, the drawstring tightened around my neck and I began to have trouble breathing. I returned my hat to its plastic bag where it remains to this day.

Hammock Woes

Don't you think there's something romantic about hammocks?

I've always wanted to own one that I could lie back and relax in, swinging slowly back and forth in the breeze. Somehow, reality has never matched my imagination. Kayaks are easier to get into than hammocks, and if your hammock doesn't come with spreader bars you'll find your shoulders compressed inward. They will slowly cut off circulation and respiration.

Chiropractors probably love hammocks because they get a lot of business from hammock riders. Nevertheless, the logical part of my mind couldn't say no to the romantic part, and I finally bought a portable camp hammock.

The first outing I took my hammock on was a camp. I didn't have time for a break until early Saturday evening. While my Scouts were off on a wide game, I strung up the hammock between two small trees and wrestled my way into its grip.

"Whatcha doin'?" I heard a voice call out. It was Marcel, one of our older Venturers.

"Relaxing," I said. He came over to where I hung contentedly, and began to push me slowly back and forth in the hammock. "It's not a swing, Marcel," I said.

"I'm just trying to rock you to sleep," Marcel said, his face alight with a mischievous grin. "Well, I'd

*"I bought it because it guaranteed,
'You'll never get lost with
this compass.'"*



Photo: Paul Kritchi

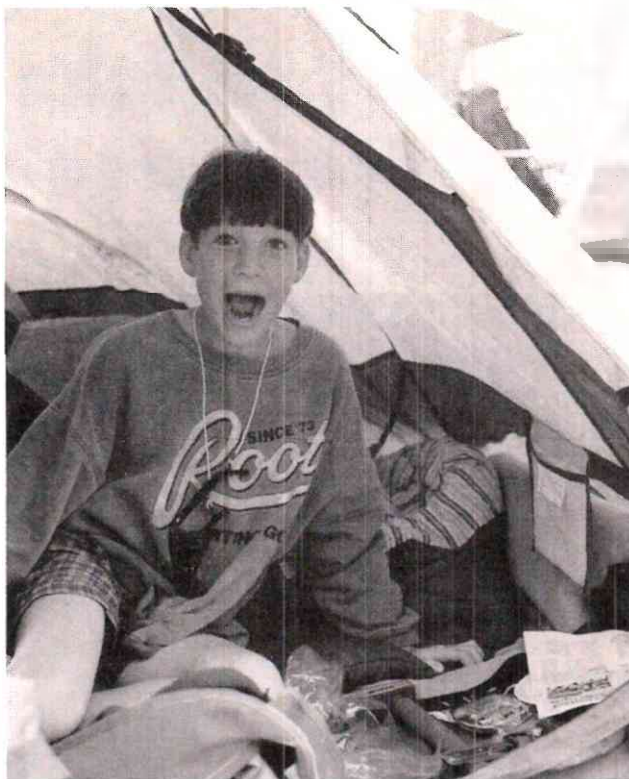
prefer you didn't," I said a little irritated as the hammock swung in higher and higher arcs. Marcel was really enjoying himself now, and pushed me with something that bordered on maniacal glee.

Suddenly one of the trees the hammock was attached to let out an awful crack, and as I struggled to get free I realized how helpless I was to change anything that was about to happen.

"Marcel, STOP!" I shouted as I struggled to disentangle my arms and fight the swing's centrifugal force. Then I heard an ear-splitting crack and felt suddenly weightless.

For a moment, time stood still as I experienced a flashback to when I was five years old and slept on the top of a bunkbed. One night, vaguely aware that something was terribly wrong but unable to change it, I toppled over the edge and off into nothingness.

By the time that vivid and sickly memory had played itself out, I was shocked back into the present as my



Don't get a rude surprise when your "fail-proof" camp gadget fails. Check it out before your camping trip.

Photo: Eric Harkonen

back hit the earth with a bone-crunching thud. Lying on the ground dazed, a voice deep within my brain began to whisper a pressing question: "Where... has... the... tree... fallen?"

Before I had time to react, I heard the boom, and felt the whoosh of wind and brush of a few branches passing across my body. Because I was swinging outward when the trunk broke, I was fortunate enough to be thrown to the side *away* from the falling tree. By the time I had come to my senses enough to want revenge on Marcel, he was nowhere to be seen. The hammock went into my pack for good. Now I nap unromantically in my tent.

Technocamping

I haven't had much luck with gadgets, but that's all in my past. No longer do I buy the latest in technogear. Wiser and older, I've settled for the basics: wool gloves, long sleeves, and a good foam sleeping pad. I don't look for new camping bargains.

But then... my backpack is getting pretty old and those nifty new ergonomically designed frameless wonders look pretty appealing. Perhaps there are some good sales cooking. X

— Michael Lee Zwiers is an avid camper and gizmo-buyer from Alberta



Photo: Paul Ritch

You don't always need the latest, space-age wonders to keep you warm. Usually a good hat, scarf and mitts will do the trick.

Is It Time to Take Your Beavers Canoeing?

by Ross Francis

Beavers in canoes?

Well, why not? After all, wild beavers do spend most of their time in, on or around the pond. What better way for your not-so-wild Beavers to actually experience pond life?

I am *not* suggesting that you plan an extended trip down fast-flowing rivers with class three rapids. I am also *not* suggesting Beaver groups should set out on large windswept lakes. However, if a group has access to skilled paddlers and safe canoes, and if they take the necessary precautions to ensure a safe experience, then why shouldn't Beavers learn to enjoy canoeing?

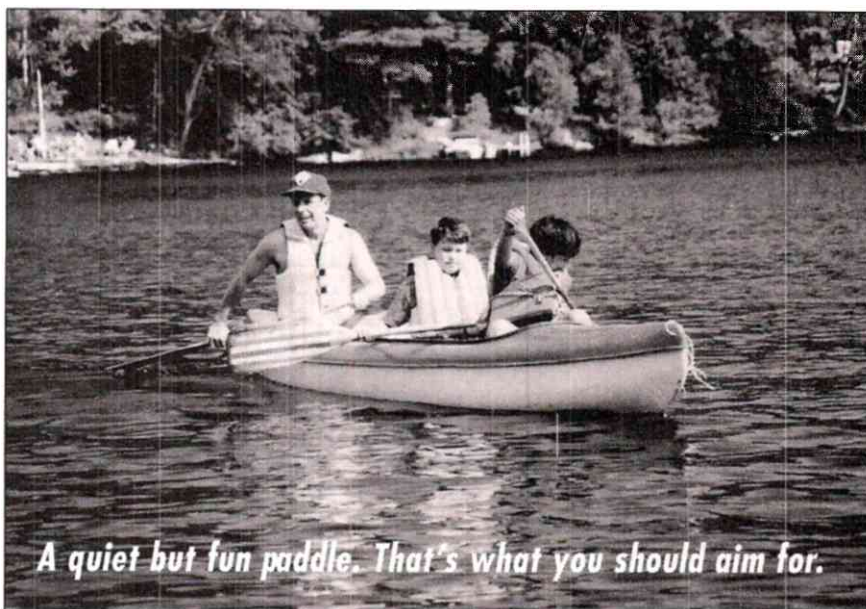


Photo: Paul Ritchie

Safety First

Water attracts most youth. Take this opportunity to broaden their interests and show them a beaver's view of the pond from the water rather than from shore. Stress safety at all opportunities. At this age, your safety message will not fall on deaf ears. Take advantage of it now.

Don't rush into canoeing. Before setting out, pay attention to careful planning and preparation. Parents, your group committee and district staff will naturally ask many questions. Know the answers before someone asks.

Involve these people from the beginning, encourage their questions and work together to determine the conditions under which the outing may be approved. Why not plan it as a "family" outing with two adults in each canoe?

Start Slowly

A warm-up outing at a local pool will help prepare everyone for the big adventure. Arrange for canoes and several certified instructors. Invite everyone along, especially parents. Spend time reviewing the importance of selecting and fitting Canadian-approved Personal Flotation Devices (PFD's). Explain how to fit a person for a PFD; make sure your Beavers understand too. Then, pass out some PFD's and put them on. Beavers and adults

might have to try on several before finding a properly-fitting one. Insist that each person wear a fastened PFD at all times when in a canoe.

Choosing the right paddle is important. One that is too long or short will only frustrate new canoeists. Here's how to pick one. Holding it with two hands above the head, one hand should rest on the shaft just above the blade. The other hand should hold onto the shaft immediately below the handle. If the paddle fits, the child's arms will have two 90° angles at the elbows.

Another way to select proper paddles for your height is to gently place the top of the blade on the floor at your feet and stand it in front of you. The paddle should come between your chin and nose.

Next, learn and practise the proper ways to launch, enter and exit canoes. Allow your Beavers lots of time to get comfortable in a floating canoe. It might take them more than just two or three minutes to get used to bobbing around the pool. Reassure them that most canoes are very stable.

Now is a good time to demonstrate the very basic forward stroke. Let everyone practise it kneeling beside the pool, while wearing a PFD.

Remember! The intent of the outing is not to make your Beavers skilled paddlers, but simply to provide a fun intro-

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duction to canoeing. Include some adventure exploring in this outing if possible, and share a picnic along the way.

Coast Guard Rules

Small craft are governed by Canadian Coast Guard rules. Be sure to follow them closely. Each canoe must carry:

- a Canadian-approved PFD or lifejacket for each person
- two paddles
- a bailer (a plastic jug with the bottom cut out)
- some type of sound signalling device.

In addition to these, you may wish to include a sponge (to keep the floor free of puddles and grit) and a painter (a floatable length of rope about 12 metres long) attached to the bow. Hook a waterproof whistle (like the Fox 40) to the zipper of each PFD so paddlers have their own signalling device. (You may need to set some noise-pollution rules if you hope to see any wildlife during your trip.)

Cardboard Voyageurs

If you play some safety-oriented canoe games at your meeting place, you'll generate Beaver excitement and teach safety rules at the same time. Build some cardboard canoes using long boxes with the bottoms cut out and the ends formed into a point (like a canoe). Paint them, giving each craft a name painted proudly on the bow and stern. Tie strings forming long loops along the gunwales, two on each side. The Beavers can crisscross these over their shoulders and walk around the hall wearing their canoe, two children per canoe. Let them wear their PFD's and use their paddles, though you may want to tape cardboard along the tips for protection, as they manoeuvre their crafts around obstacles in the hall. What better time



Photo: Paul Ritchie

A properly fitting PFD is the first step towards safe canoeing.

than this to teach them to paddle on opposite sides.

Call out various signals to your Beavers, given by whistle. Play "follow the leader" with your cardboard canoes. Challenge the paddlers to an exciting journey over an obstacle course. Tell them some stories about the voyageurs who opened our country up. Tie their obstacle course into these voyageur stories.

The Big Day!

Check the weather forecast and the wind to ensure that the conditions are suitable for a safe outing. If the wind is too strong, cancel the outing. This doesn't show weakness, but responsible leadership.

Leave a plan of your outing complete with a map and expected returning time with someone at home. Also include instructions and phone numbers to call if you are not back in time.

Meet at a placid river, pond or lake at a specified time. Once unloaded, gather everybody together to review the rules, identify the lead boat, the sweep

boat (last canoe) and the rescue boat.

Double check all PFDs and canoes.

Other Helpful Tips

1. Make sure everyone is wearing proper clothing and hats to provide protection from the sun.
2. Keep the trip fairly short.
3. Take breaks along the way to see different sights and to stretch your legs. Older Beavers will be able to stay longer in the canoes without getting out.
4. Play different games as you go, while watching and listening for wildlife.
5. Allow time for your Beavers to paddle the canoes to "give the adults a break."

For safety and to allow enough room in each canoe for two adults and two Beavers, your canoes should be *at least* sixteen feet long. This will let each person paddle comfortably. It will also permit adequate space for picnic supplies and other equipment.

Happy paddling! ^



A canoe program might make an excellent linking event! Invite some Cubs along.

Photo: Paul Ritchie

Fun at the Pond

by Leno Wong



It's party time! Here are some party ideas for colonies running their season later this year, or for leaders wanting to hold a mid-summer Beaver bash.

Beaver-aged children love to splash and play. Whether your "gala gathering" takes place in a park or someone's backyard, a water theme is perfect for summer. Plan your party near a pool or beach so everyone can safely get wet. If this isn't possible, at least have a wading pool or big tubs filled with water, and make sure your invitations emphasize the need for bathing suits or well-used T-shirts and shorts.

GET WET!

These ideas will help you launch your "Get Wet!" party.

Exciting Sprinklers

Position one or two sprinklers in a yard so your Beavers can dash through the water and cool off. Here's a game to try with a sweeping type sprinkler. Split the Beavers into two groups and line them up just out of range of the sweeper on both sides — one group per side. The game's object: follow the wa-

ter as it changes direction to the other side until the group reaches the middle. Your Beavers must then back up and try to avoid getting sprayed as the water sweeps back in their direction and the other group follows the water to the middle.

Little Hosers

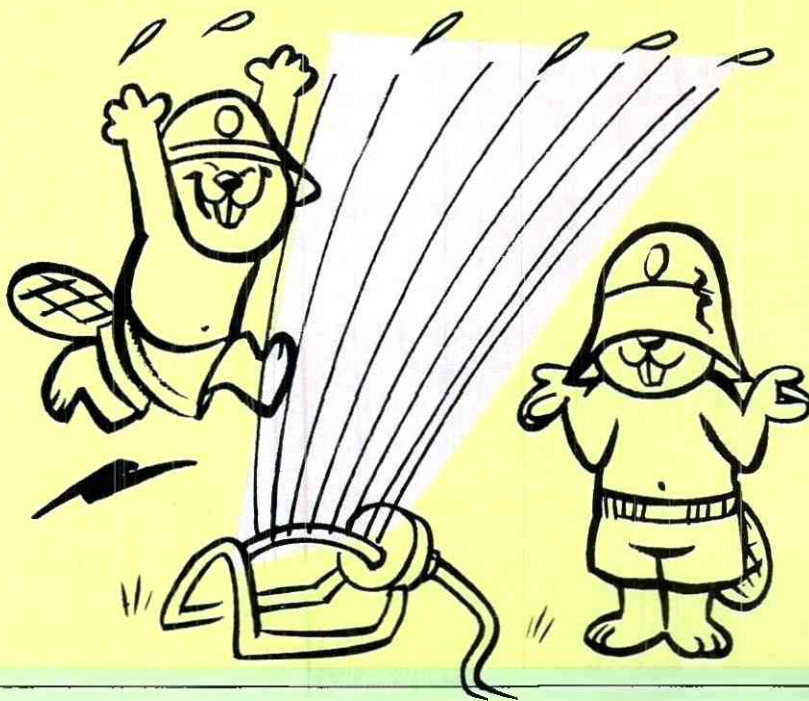
A hose can provide hours of fun. Simply turn it on and spray your Beavers. *Make sure they know what is going to happen* — getting wet unexpectedly is not always fun. Make a game out of it. Set the hose so it has a limited range and encourage your Beavers to try to stay dry as you turn around spraying in a 360° arc. Ask an adult to take charge of the hose; in Beaver hands, water can end up anywhere!

Bucket Relay

Each team will need a small toy bucket for this game. Split the colony into equal-sized teams, both at one end of the play area. Fill their buckets completely with water, and run a relay from one end of the area to the other. The team finishing with the most water in its bucket gets to throw it over the other players; then the other teams get to throw their water over the winning team.

Water Obstacle Course

Set up a water obstacle course. The Beavers start by following a trail of plastic bowls filled with water. They put one foot in each bowl and are not allowed to step on the ground (make sure you place the bowls close enough to each



other so the shortest Beaver legs can reach). Next they crawl under a tunnel made of plastic lawn chairs. Someone plays a hose gently over the chairs. The tunnel is followed by a dash through a sprinkler. Finally the Beavers make their way through another short trail of plastic bowls to find a yummy popsicle or fruit snack.

If you're in a place where sprinklers and hoses are not available, spray each other with dishwasher detergent bottles filled with water, or water pistols. Modify the obstacle course to run through areas where several leaders are spraying water with a watering can.

MAKE A PIÑATA

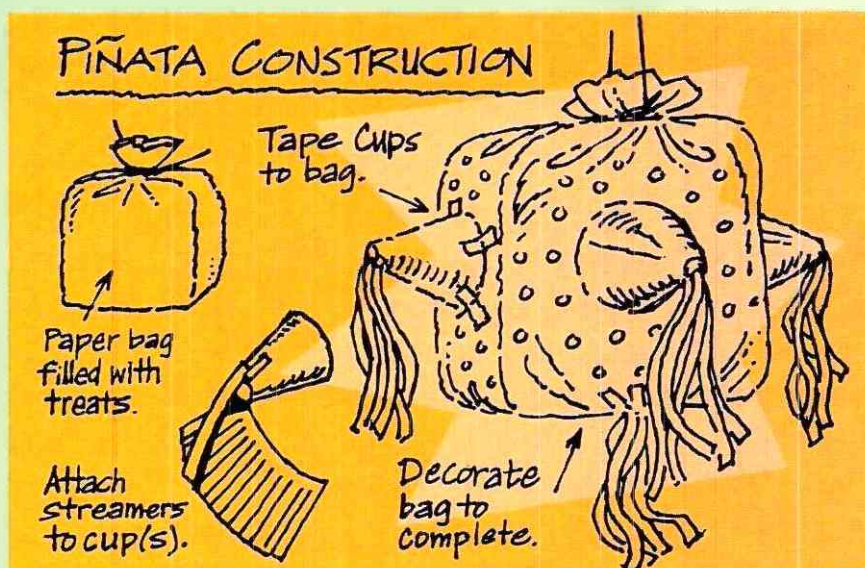
A Mexican piñata is sure to generate excitement at your party. Here's an easy-to-make piñata described in a book entitled *Papercrafts 'Round the World*, by Phyllis and Noel Fiarotta (Sterling).

You'll need a large paper grocery bag, wrapped candies, party favour toys, newspaper, cord, four large colourful paper cups, tape and crêpe paper streamers. Put the candy and toys into the bag; give it a good shake. Fill the rest of the bag with crumpled newspaper. Tie the bag closed with a long length of cord leaving enough of it to hang the piñata. Tape the paper cups to the four sides of the piñata. Cut lengths of the crêpe paper streamers and cut up to almost the top of the pieces to form long fringes. Tape the fringes to the ends of the cups and the piñata's bottom. Hang the piñata from a tree branch or broomstick and let the Beavers take turns whacking it with a baseball bat or a broomstick. When the piñata breaks and the goodies fall out, make sure your Beavers share the loot equally.

DIG IN!

Every successful party has fun food. Barbecued hot dogs and hamburgers are guaranteed favourites for the main meal. Make sure you have a supply of freshly cut pieces of vegetables as side dishes. Decorate some of them by making funny faces and shapes.

For more sophisticated tastes you might try Teriyaki Chicken Wings or ribs. Make the sauce ahead of time and marinate the meat for 2-3 hours before cooking. If you decide on a picnic, place the meat in the sauce in a leak-proof container before you leave home; it'll be ready when you are. If you are not able to barbecue, cook the meat in an oven.



For the teriyaki sauce you need 240 mL dark soya sauce, 60 mL white cooking wine, 60 mL vegetable oil, 30 mL brown sugar, 7 mL ground ginger, and 5 mL chopped garlic. Mix the ingredients, and marinate the meat. Use the remaining sauce for basting during cooking.

Desserts definitely need to be special; here are three choices.

Beaver Designs

Make sure all Beavers have clean hands. Give them each a selection of large and small marshmallows, thin pretzel sticks, dried apricots and raisins. Challenge them to create weird, funny designs with the ingredients before they eat them.

Fruit Hogs

This one will take some preparation but the Beavers will have fun eating the results. For each Beaver you need a half cored apple, toothpicks and a variety of fruit pieces. Place the half apple cut side down on a plate. Stick toothpicks all over the apple leaving about one quarter free at one end. Put pieces of cut fruit on the toothpicks. You can use whole grapes, pieces of kiwi fruit, oranges, bananas, strawberries, whole raspberries or stoned cherries. Make each one as colourful as possible. Cut two small sections out of the apple at the top of the free quarter and put in two raisins for eyes. Be careful not to make the fruit hogs look too cute or the Beavers may not want to eat them. Tip: Brush a little lemon juice over the cut apple pieces. This will prevent them from turning brown.

Party Cake

You need one Bundt cake, icing, 1 tube decorating gel, two packages

of cake decorations, and purple food colouring.

Colour the icing purple with the food colouring and ice the cake evenly. Put the decorating gel on the cake using creative swirls and lines. Place the decorations inside the swirls or between lines. You can get all sorts of sugar cake decorations, so choose whatever theme your Beavers will enjoy. For special effect, put a few candles and sparklers on the cake before serving.

BALLOON GAMES

Play balloon games indoors or out.

Balloon Dance

You need a blown-up balloon tied to a length of string for each Beaver. Fasten the balloons around the Beaver's ankles and start some active fun music. The children must dance around the play area and try to break as many balloons as possible. Beavers whose balloons have been broken stand on the side lines and cheer on their friends. The last person left with an intact balloon gets to burst it herself.

Matching Balloons

Blow up a balloon for each Beaver. Draw an animal face or print the name of a local town or city on each balloon. Make sure you have matching balloons with identical pictures or city names. Hand the balloons out at random. Beavers must look around to find a partner with the same animal face or city name on their balloon. After the game, the Beavers make up their own fun with the balloons.

Enjoy your end-of-year party and a well-deserved summer break. ^

There's Good News Out There!

by John Rietveld

SOME JOURNALISTS BELIEVE BAD NEWS IS GOOD NEWS; that's how the saying goes. They think sensational headlines and bad news stories sell more papers. All too often media coverage about Scouting falls within the bad news category, leading some to think Scouting has big problems. But if you look beyond the front page, you can find some uplifting stories. Often these report on Scouting activities.

Several times a year we gather together all newspaper clippings received at the national office into a complete set, then pass the articles around the office. While the clippings include both positive and negative items, the good stories definitely outweigh the bad.

At the end of another Scouting season, I'd like to share some good news with **Leader** readers. These stories will perk you up, convince you that all your effort was worth it, and energize you to return in September. Here are just a few of the positive stories we received this past year.

Local Heroes

A Canadian Press story picked up by papers across Canada told how 15-year-old Scout Aaron Grin, of Chatham Ontario, used popsicles as a cold compress when his younger brother was struck by a car last year. Aaron successfully used the icy treats to stop the blood flow and ease the pain of his brother's injuries. Aaron's Scout first aid training paid off!

The War Cry, a Salvation Army publication, ran a full page in their February issue recognizing the importance of Scouting and Guiding within the Salvation Army's work. Pictures included Peterborough Scout Eric Foster receiving a local "Scout of the Year" award from Captain Gary Cooper.

The Prince George (BC) *Citizen* ran a front page photograph and story in January titled "Canadian Challenge" showing the 22nd Nechako Beavers holding a large Canadian flag. The Beavers challenged all other Scouting groups to fly the nation's flag as a part of a Canadian Challenge.

The Mail-Star in Halifax reported in February on the 8th Fairview's hosting of a Citizenship Court at which 35 people from 12 countries became Canadian citizens. Chair of the group, Lena Diab, was quoted as



*When so many kids are having
such a good time, you know
we're doing it right!*

Photo: Allen Macarmey

saying, "hosting this ceremony is great because it's an opportunity for us to get to know more about each others' heritage and culture." The 8th Fairview Group includes 103 Scouts, predominately of Lebanese origin.

A colour photograph accompanied a story from Kitchener-Waterloo about Scout Christmas tree sales. Peter Miller, a leader with the 24th Kitchener Group, reported that the Scouts would use the tree sale proceeds to cover the cost of attending CJ'97.

Another colour photograph, this time appearing in the *St. Catharines Standard*, showed an energetic group of Scouts from the Niagara Region and Pennsylvania engaged in a tug-of-war competition at the Klondike Days International Camporee.

A full page in the February 26 edition of the *Mississauga News* covered many activities involving

Mississauga groups as they celebrated Scouting's 90th birthday. Two pictures accompanied the article. One showed the Mayor as she presided over a birthday cake-cutting ceremony at a local shopping mall; hungry Scouts and council officials looked on! A second picture portrayed a smiling group of Scouting volunteers as they received an impressive donation from a local firm toward the refurbishing of the Mississauga Region's Goodyear Memorial Scout Camp.

Good News!

From stories about camporees and co-ed Scouting, to pictures of smiling Cubs at Kub Kar Rallies, Scouting receives an excellent array of good news coverage. The national office received over 250 press clippings since September — probably only a small portion of all the stories that actually appeared during this time period.

Thank you to all those who sent clippings our way. Thank you also to the newspapers, and radio and television stations that provided the space, whether in print format or on-the-air. They allow Scouting to tell the community we're alive and well! X

Walking Sticks: A Stick...y Business

by Ian Mitchell

Hiking excites Venturers. Seven of the thirteen Amory Adventure Awards this year were hiking trips of one sort or another. After reading the descriptions of tough terrain and long distances, I pictured myself hunched over, in total body discomfort. But long, tough hikes combined with poor walking posture, don't have to make your entire body ache.

According to *Backpacker Magazine*, Europeans have discovered a valuable hiking secret. No, I'm not going to begin a lecture on fitness, but instead explore the world of walking sticks.

Walking sticks have long been a part of Scouting paraphernalia. Baden-Powell adopted the staff as basic Scouting equipment. He used it for testing the depth of jungle swamp holes and streams, guarding his face when going through heavy brush, feeling his way in the dark, and carrying bundles over his shoulder.

Today's hiker uses a walking stick for many of the same reasons B.-P. did, but if you add balance and walking power to the list, you'll soon realize that your personal gear should include one.

The Staff

Traditional staves measure 5' 6" (165 cm) in length and are made of lightweight, stout, straight wood about 1 1/2" in diameter. Marked in feet from the bottom, with the top six inches marked in inches, youth can use staves to measure when needed. Each hiker will, of course, want to personalize his or her own staff. Only their imagination, and perhaps the sharpness of their knife, will provide limitations.

Trekking Poles

These sometimes high-tech staves resemble ski poles in many ways; perhaps this explains why they haven't caught on in North America. Trekking poles are lightweight and are usually carried in pairs. Adjustable shafts and rubber tips are a sure giveaway that you're looking at a set of these poles.



*Hiking is much easier
with a walking stick.*

Photo: Paul Ritchie

Staff or Poles?

It doesn't matter whether you decide on the traditional staff or the newer poles for trekking; both will benefit your hiking. If you're crossing a stream, hiking up steep grades, or just needing something to lean on, either a staff or a trekking pole will fill the bill. However, I believe the many uses of the traditional wooden staff remain unmatched.

Shelter is a good place to start. Not only can you replace a broken tent pole with a staff, but you can build a shelter (e.g. lean-to, bivouac) with them. An environmentally-friendly Venturer could use a staff to hold a cooking pot, rather than cut a fresh bough. Youth can make any number of pioneering projects from a staff, including a boot rack. What about using a staff for a stretcher when an emergency appears? With two staves and a jacket, you're all set.

Why not try your own experiment? Before your next outing, round up some old ski poles and broom handles to give to your Venturers as walking sticks. Ask them to keep track of the uses they find for them. At the end of the trip, find out which — the ski poles or broom handle — was more useful. Perhaps you could plan an activity where Venturers make useful camp gadgets out of staves or poles. You might include knot tying in this fun activity.

For the Record

Much like the Scouting neckerchief, we've forgotten about the original purpose and uses of the staff. (See the February *Leader Outdoor* column for a discussion about the necker.) A walking stick will, in most cases, allow even an inexperienced hiker to have a more enjoyable outdoor experience. The extra weight and inconvenience is well worth it. ^



How to Get the Right People *Screening Interviews: Part 'B'*

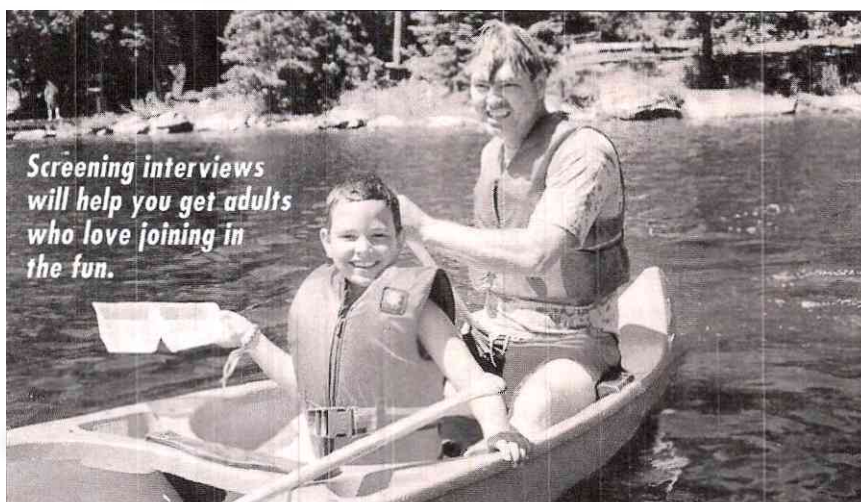
by Bryon Milliere

HOW DO YOU KNOW when people are telling the truth? Few potential leaders are willing to agree to a lie detector test, and truth serum may have some side affects. Even professional interviewers will tell you that no process is foolproof.

Don't be discouraged. The experts do have some advice to improve your abilities beyond what your gut tells you. The questions and approach outlined in Part 'A' of this article explained how to establish rapport, how to build a profile and how to ask open-ended questions. Part 'B' will help you deal with responses (both good and bad) to your questions, and help you recognize body language and risk indicators.

When preparing for the interview be sure to review the position's job description. Consider the attitude, skills and knowledge of the person who would be successful in the job. Focus the questions on confirming the candidate's match with the role.

Even while establishing rapport and building a profile of the candidate's background, interviewers should



Screening interviews will help you get adults who love joining in the fun.

Photo: Paul Ritchie

be asking themselves this question: Can we picture the candidate in the job? If you feel unsure about the match, try to identify what is causing that uncertainty. First impressions are often reliable, however, they aren't guaranteed character gauges.

Ticking Bombs

"One of the biggest mistakes interviewers make," says Paddy Bowen, Executive Director of Volunteer Canada, "is letting a 'bomb' lie (silent and unexplored)." For example, if the interviewed candidate says something like,

"I love being alone with children. I think they are the only people who really understand me," don't let the comment end there. Probe into what the candidate means. Eliminate all doubts in your mind. Don't proceed to the next question on your list. Be prepared for unexpected information that bubbles up that might indicate serious problems.

A candidate with something to hide may not answer your questions directly or not at all. Instead the person may send the conversation in a completely different direction to avoid answering the question. If you feel you are being

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diverted, simply ask the question again or rephrase it to be more specific.

Besides gathering facts, we are also interested in assessing maturity, sense of judgement, patience, tact, sensitivity to others, prejudice, rigidity or flexibility, ability to work with others and handle problems. These are sometimes tough to assess, but we need to use our best judgement. Your good or uneasy feeling might relate to some of these qualities. A person with an average ability in these areas should make you feel comfortable in the way they interact with you, the way they describe their dealings with others and the level of responsibility they accept for their circumstances.

Look for these Signs!

Here are some warning signs to watch for:

- unaccountable gaps in personal history
- an avoidance to answering questions
- an over-interest in children, or a lack of adult relationships
- belief that hitting children is okay
- a greater interest in what they will get out of the program than in developing youth.

The following indicators demonstrate poor suitability:

- prejudice towards certain groups of people
- harsh or inappropriate language in conversation
- questioning the need to have reference to God in the Promise
- lack of time for volunteering and training
- inability to work as a member of a team.

You may resolve some of these suitability indicators to your satisfaction through further probing (e.g. the individual's belief in God or a flexible level of involvement to accommodate other commitments). Don't let them pass by until you are content.

To Tell The Truth

Watching body language and eye movements are common ways to assess a person's truthfulness. Be aware, though, of cultural and personal differences. Not everyone reacts the same. Remember back to when you were initially building rapport with this person. It will provide clues as to how this candidate uses body language when he or she is both nervous and relaxed.

"If somebody's relaxed and you're asking open-ended questions, giving lots of time to answer," says Chuck Lawrence (instructor, Ontario Police College), "their head and hand movements will mirror their words. If someone catches a four foot fish, it's natural to say, 'It was this big!' (motioning with hands). Watch for cases where the body language doesn't match what's

own child to a program involving this person? Whatever you decide, ask yourself "why" you feel that way. This process will help identify the source of those uncomfortable gut feelings so you can confirm or reject them.

As well, take note of areas of concern you have that should be pursued during reference checks — the topic of next month's article.

Try asking yourself this question: Would I be comfortable sending my own child to a program involving this person?

coming out of the mouth. Look too for eye movements. Somebody who's relaxed and telling a story, tends to go into autopilot mode: They look up to the right or left to recall information. Though not overly concerned with you, they will check back with you from time to time to make sure you're following them."

"On the other hand," says Chuck Lawrence, "in my experience, somebody who is lying will often maintain very intense eye contact. They are really intent on following *you* to see whether or not you are 'buying' what they're selling you."

Would I...?

If you do feel uneasy about responses you're getting, always follow-up with additional questions until the doubts go away or until the doubts grow into mountains.

Try asking yourself this question: Would I be comfortable sending my

Pleasant Conclusions

At the end of a successful interview, you'll usually feel excited; you'll be able to picture this person in the Scouting role because his or her answers matched with the attitude, skills and knowledge you were looking for. The candidate, too, will often be excited about the group's mission and vision. At this point, checking the candidates references may seem like an unnecessary formality, but remember: checking references is an important and necessary step.

Conclude the interview by thanking the candidate and explaining the next steps. If you feel really good about their involvement, be enthusiastic about the timeline. When you have some concerns, you may wish to be vague and noncommittal.

Finding excellent leaders isn't always easy, but it is vital. Don't take any shortcuts. Our youth deserve the best. Δ



Photo: Allen Macatney

Outstanding leaders love being with kids, and kids love being with them.



Book Talk

by Dave Jenkinson



Are you driving to CJ or some other camp many hours away this summer? How are your exuberant passengers going to pass the travel time? If you want to avoid too many choruses of songs like "99 Bottles...", you might consider punctuating the "singing" with a number of challenging activities found in books like Martin Gardner's *Classic Brainteasers*.

You probably won't require anything more than pencils and a bit of paper for "thinking." Some of the puzzles are visual, such as those of the "What's Wrong with these Pictures?" type, while others are verbal like: "All of Mrs. Perkins' pets are dogs except one, and all her pets are cats except one. How many cats and dogs does she have?" Take the book apart and distribute the puzzles (and their answers) among your riders so they can challenge each other. While most brainteasers are at the Scout level and beyond, Cub leaders will find some puzzles suitable for their section.

"We Predict!" is an activity from *Classic Brainteasers*. Try it out with your Cubs or Scouts. (See answers at bottom)

1. Write down the name of a country starting with the letter "D."
2. Write down the name of an animal starting with the second letter in the country's name.
3. Write down the colour of the animal.
4. Write down the name of an animal starting with the LAST letter in the country's name.
5. Write down the name of a fruit

More 'Mind' Games

Looking for a slightly more challenging book? Raymond Blum's *Math Tricks, Puzzles And Games* offers activities for individuals and teams.

Don't let the title's first word scare you off. This book is lots of fun and doesn't really demand math expertise. Some of the "magic" card tricks created around mathematical manipulations will amaze audiences of all ages. Many of this book's activities are perfect "back

Your would-be clowns will learn how to put on their make-up and dress; they'll even make their own "squirt flowers" and balloon hats.

pocket" games which you can pull out anywhere on demand. For example, "Over Easy" asks you to take 10 coins and arrange them in a triangle à la 10 pin bowling. Now move only three coins so that the original triangle is inverted. (Scouts: Entertainer Challenge Badge)

Debi Perna's *Super Puzzles And Fun* contains mazes, dot-to-dots, find the pairs, match-ups, riddles and games which should be sure-fire hits with Beavers — especially those in first year. Because some of the book's contents require users to write directly on

with clear plastic. With Beavers using washable pens, you can extend the book's lifetime indefinitely.

Your Cubs will enjoy this trio of short books written by Ivan Bulloch and Diane Jones. Each book's title begins with the five words, "I Want To Be A...", and then is completed with "Clown", "Magician" and "Juggler". These kid-friendly books are filled with colour photographs, and the step-by-step instructions are easy to follow. Your would-be clowns will learn how to put on their make-up and dress; they'll even make their own "squirt flowers" and balloon hats. Aspiring magicians are given directions for performing 18 magic tricks which range from "Floating Pencils" to "Vanishing Keys." Finally, for those looking for a greater physical challenge, the juggling title takes readers from one ball up to three, and then offers them some "showmanship" moves. With just a bit of imagination, the contents of these three books could form the basis of a theme day at camp. (Cubs: Tawny Star A2, B4; Entertainer Badge)

Answers to the *Classic Brainteasers* activity... Mrs. Perkins' Pets: She has one cat and one dog. "We Predict!": Denmark, Elephant, Grey, Kangaroo and Orange.

BOOK DETAILS

- R. Blum, *Math Tricks, Puzzles And Games*, Sterling, 1995: \$6.95.
 I. Bulloch, and D. Jones, *I Want To Be A Clown*, Stoddart, 1995: \$6.99.
 I. Bulloch, and D. Jones, *I Want To Be A Juggler*, Stoddart, 1995: \$6.99.
 I. Bulloch and D. Jones, *I Want To Be A Magician*, Stoddart, 1995: \$6.99.
 M. Gardner, *Classic Brainteasers*, Sterling, 1995: \$6.95.

starting with the LAST letter in the name of the animal you chose for the fourth step.

the pages, you may want to purchase two copies. Take them apart, mount the pages on heavier paper and cover

D. Perna, *Super Puzzles And Fun From Chickadee Magazine*, Owl Books, 1995: \$4.95. ^

Make your Summer Camp a "Ball"

by Ross Francis

DO YOU HAVE YOUR SUMMER CAMP PLANNED? Are you still struggling for program ideas? Softball Canada provides several "hot ideas" to plan a fun and exciting softball activity through its Royal Bank Softball Days program. These ideas come from their "Hot Ideas" booklet:

Slo-Pitch Softball

This game is similar to regular softball except you pitch to your own team and keep pitching to individual members until the batter hits the ball. Teams consist of 10-12 players. Each inning ends when the *entire* team has batted around. The final out is recorded by returning the last ball hit to home plate.

Play the game on a regular softball field or make-shift diamond. Make sure you have a good scorekeeper, because there's usually a lot of runs scored!

Partner Softball

This softball game teaches teamwork because two people must work together as one player. The first player is blindfolded while the second person acts as his eyes, telling him when to swing and guiding him around the bases.

Play the game at any established softball field. You might want to use a batting tee or large bat. Some people even use a "beep ball" — one that makes a beeping noise. This game is best for younger children. It's also great for visually-challenged friends.

Soccer Softball

This game has been played for many decades. Regular softball rules apply, but instead of a softball, you roll a soccer ball towards home plate. The batter must kick the ball. Play the game on a regulation softball diamond or soccer field.

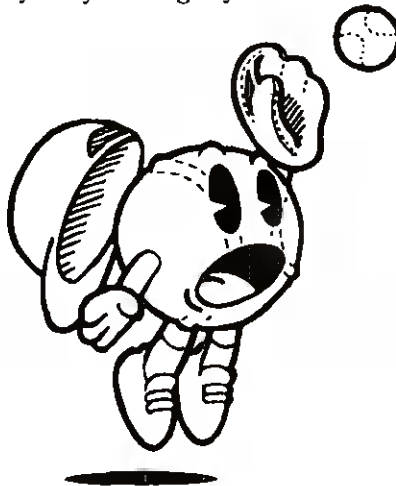
Beavers and Cubs will especially like soccer softball. It's also excellent for mixed-age groups.

Incrediball

Incrediball is appropriate for either indoors or outside. Find a ball that is larger and softer than a real softball; mark off the bases with tape if you play in a gymnasium.

Cubs and Scouts could use gloves if they wish, as well as real or over-sized

bats. Young children will particularly like Incrediball, as well as mentally or physically challenged youth.



Strike-Outless Softball

Beavers and Cubs find it very embarrassing to strike out. So, who says three strikes and you're out is necessary?

In this game players have the option of batting off a stationary tee, using a larger ball or kicking a soccer ball. Players may swing at, or kick the ball

into play. Every player on the team goes to bat once before taking a position in the field.

This game offers a variety of options. Some of the possibilities include (a) assign 1 point for each base reached, (b) all batters run, (c) groups of players or the entire team runs when ball is put into play. If playing by Inuit rules, the batter must be tagged out at first, but may run anywhere to avoid being tagged.

Walking Softball

Here's a great game for all ages. The rules are the same as in softball but you may not run. All players — everyone — have to walk at *all* times. You may wish to reduce the size of your playing field to keep action going at a reasonable pace.

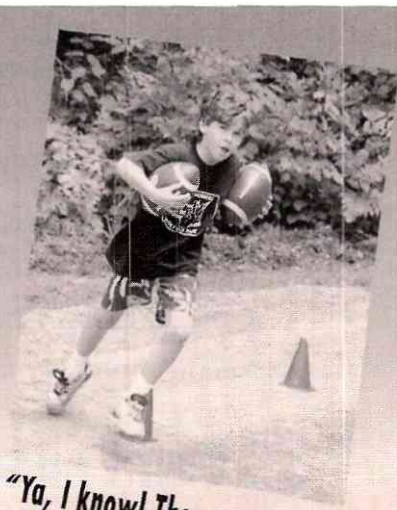
This game is excellent for mixed boy-girl groups, or where very young children are playing with Cubs, Scouts or adults. In this case, the young children may run, but everyone else must walk.

Want to increase the game's difficulty? Try having everyone walk backwards!

For more exciting games, stickers, posters and great prizes contact Emily McGrath at Softball Canada, 1600 James Naismith Dr., Gloucester, ON, K1B 5N4. Phone: (613) 748-5668; fax: (613) 748-5760. ^



It's a race around the bases!



"Ya, I know! These are pretty bizarre softball rules."

Photos: Paul Ritchie

Stay Afloat this Summer!

by Ross Francis

Is your group planning sailing, power boating or canoeing activities this summer?

If so, you should meet "Buckles", the Canadian Red Cross Swimming



and Water Safety Program mascot. His suggestions may save your life. Here are some words of wisdom from Buckles.

- Wear bright colours when boating. The more visible you are to others, the safer you'll be.
- Wear your flotation device at all times when in a boat. Make sure everyone has one that fits.
- All recreational vessels must carry a Canadian-approved Personal Flotation Device (PFD) or lifejacket for each person on board. Failure to comply can result in a fine.
- Canadian-approved PFDs are designed with comfort in mind so people will wear them more often. Naturally this increases your safety.

PFD or Lifejacket

What's the difference between a personal flotation device (PFD) and a lifejacket?

A PFD is less bulky and less buoyant than a lifejacket. A PFD will not necessarily roll a person into a position where the head is out of the water. Most people prefer PFDs for active sports such as canoeing or kayaking because they allow greater movement.

A lifejacket will hold the wearer in an upright position and will keep an unconscious person's face above water.

Recent amendments to PFD standards mean you can now buy a PFD in a wide choice of colours — far beyond the red, yellow and orange available in past years. The Canadian Coast Guard supported these amendment changes in response to recommendations from search and rescue officials, boating safety organizations, enforcement officials, training organizations, manufacturers, retailers and boaters.

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Photo: Wayne Barrett

A well-fitting PFD can save your life.

Buckles suggests you take this checklist to test your PFD or life-jacket during your next visit to a pool or waterfront.

- ## Safety Features

Children's PFDs come in three sizes: 9-14 kg (20-30 lbs), 14-27 kg (30-60 lbs) and 27-41 kg (60-90 lbs). Don't try to save money by purchasing a PFD too large for a child. Your thriftiness might cost a child her life. Here's what to look for when choosing a child's PFD:

- large grab strap (usually attached to the back of the collar)

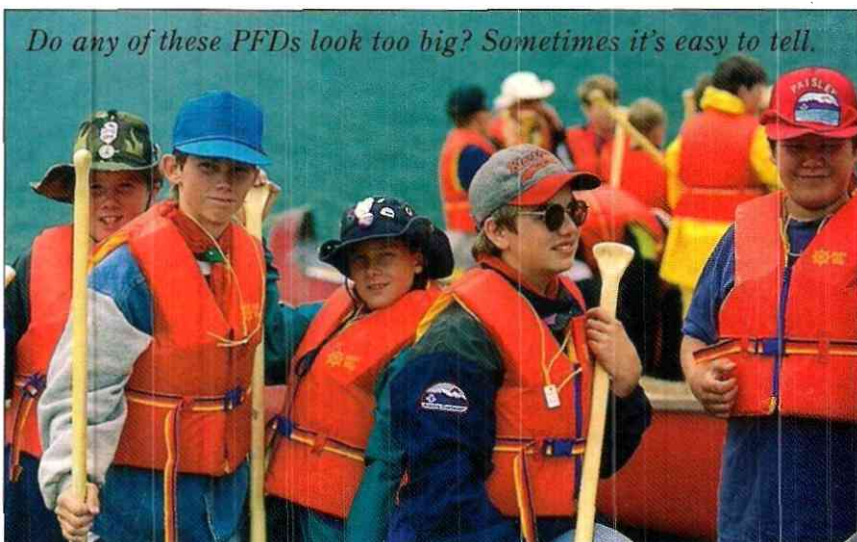


Photo: Wayne Bennett

- red, yellow or orange coloured PFDs are recommended for highest visibility in the water
- large collar for head support
- waist tie with snug-fitting drawstring, or elastic in front and back.
- safety strap between the legs to prevent PFD from slipping over the child's head
- reflective tape
- sturdy, rust-proof zippers.

Before buying a PFD, identify the kind of boating activity you will be using it for, and find a manufacturer with a model designed for your activity. Check the label to make sure it is Canadian-approved.

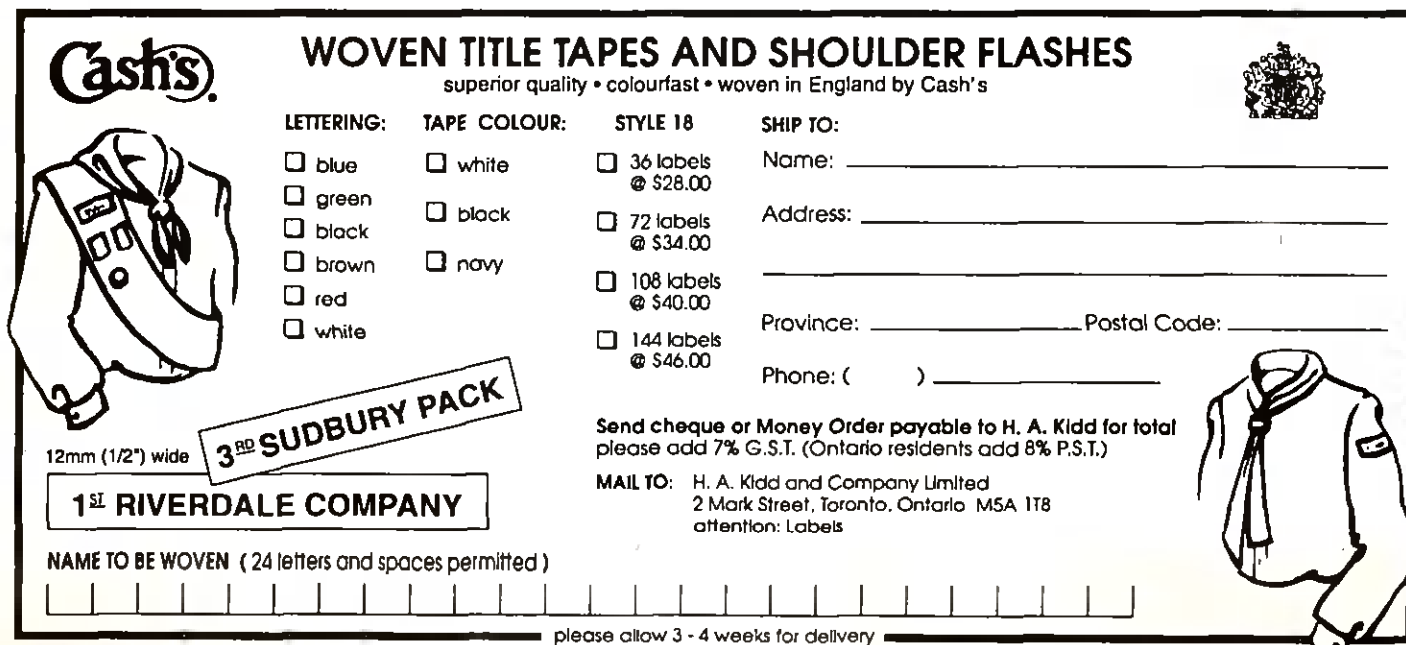
Try the PFD on while you're still in the store; fasten it up checking for comfort and manoeuvrability. Place your thumbs under the shoulder straps

and lift. The PFD should fit snugly. After purchasing, it's important to try your PFD out in the water. In chest-deep water lift your legs off the bottom and put your head back. Make sure your chin is above the water and you can breathe easily.

Get a waterproof whistle such as the Fox 40. Attach it to the PFD for signalling in the event of an emergency. Do not tie it on a string around your neck; this could be dangerous.

If you have to be rescued, make the searchers' job as easy as possible. Buckles says, "Wear your PFD!"

Note: Buckles and AquaQuest, A Canadian Red Cross water safety program, are supported through funding from the Canadian Tire Child Protection Foundation.



Recruitment: If You Ask Them, They Will Come

by Paul Ritchi

Many groups have found themselves shrinking in numbers as their neighbourhood matures. Others have waited for potential new members to approach them with only limited success. Recruiting is a painful difficulty many groups face. District or provincial recruitment efforts achieve varying results. What can you do to turn the numbers around?

Our 7th Thornhill MYSA Wolf Cub experience shows that recruiting campaigns are only as successful as the effort and commitment we local leaders put into them.

Dynamic Program

Many factors come together to support your recruiting activity, but if you don't start with a dynamic program that excites your Cubs, you're swimming against the current. This is vital! An energetic and adventure-full program will attract a flood of youth.

Another important element is what we call "economy of scale." Though our pack wants lots of Cubs, we also actively recruit plenty of adult leaders



so the work load and responsibility is spread evenly over many shoulders. Creative ideas flow easily when no one is over-burdened. Plenty of youth and adult members will also reduce other costs like camp fees, transportation expenses, membership fees, rental fees, and special program costs.

Cub Promoters

No one recruitment tool is more effective than the Cubs themselves, as well as support from their parents. In late August we send all returning Cubs an information package they can share with a friend. We ask Cub parents to "talk up" the exciting program to other adults, and spread the word that we're looking for more leaders.

We encourage Cubs to recruit their buddies using several key incentives. A Cub receives a campfire blanket crest (from a wide selection) for each new member recruited. We then put both friends into the same six if they want. For Cubs who recruit three or more friends, we offer a unique prize: a comprehensive tour of the local airport, with two guests (usually parents).

Additional Considerations

At least once a year we ask Cubs to bring a friend to the pack. Here we deliver an exciting, fast-paced program that includes a slide show of past activities. Even those youth who decide not to join leave the meeting with a whole new perspective of the Scouting program. Now they think *Scouting is Cool!*

We've even organized a presentation (featuring youth in their complete uniforms) to possibly-interested par-

ents and children during parent-teacher interview nights. This could also fit well during school lunch breaks. Have an information package for people to take home.

Public Awareness

Our group takes several other steps in late August and early September.

1. We develop a flyer to give all eligible students in neighbouring schools. It gives a brief overview of Scouting activities, and answers questions parents might have about the program. It includes a list of contacts, and the meeting locations, days and times.
2. We place an advertisement in the local newspaper to promote the upcoming registration night.
3. We put promotional flyers in strategic locations throughout the community.

Public Visibility

Our pack tries to raise Scouting's community visibility by using a wide range of methods. These include:

- a photo display highlighting the exciting Scouting activities
- participating in a September community parade
- helping to clean up a local park in the spring.

When our Cubs appear in public they always wear their complete uniform. First impressions count. A neat uniform projects a positive image of a disciplined, well-balanced child with a positive self-image.

During Remembrance Day ceremonies, most of our Cubs want to wear their uniforms to school. This too raises Scouting's visibility and attracts new members.

Recruiting is never an easy task, but if you build it into all aspects of the program, you'll keep your group visible throughout the year, not just in the fall.

Does it work? You bet it does! *Λ*

— Paul Ritchi is a veteran Cub leader with the Ontario Thornhill Group. His photos often appear in the **Leader**.

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RECRUIT MEMBERS THROUGH A PHOTO EXHIBIT

from Lynda Koudys

We've discovered a fun way to both recruit and retain Scouting members. Our group has a travelling photography exhibit that shows all aspects of Scouting: from individual theme evenings held indoors, to active outdoor programs in the fresh air.

An exhibit can be as inexpensive as you wish. We began by enlarging photographs on a colour copier to 8" x 10" size. Then we placed them into see-through plastic sleeves and mounted each on a 10" x 14" foam board. A carpenter made wooden stands from 1" x 2" spruce (see photo). The stands fold in two, allowing each to display 48 pictures for all to see.

Start Small

Our display started with a clearly defined goal: show our photo exhibit in two settings — a week-long Canada Day celebration and a Chamber of Commerce event in August. More events presented themselves. Soon we were booking our exhibit at the Town Hall, libraries, and other places. The promotional display (covering all sections), now depicted Beaverees, Cuborees, camporees, spring hikes, campfires, even international Scouting trips.

Whether our Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Venturers and Rovers were shown visiting a fish hatchery, enjoying a pirate theme night, racing during a bicycle hike, working at a food bank, or providing security at local events, the photos depicted youth very positively.

Join In the Fun!

At community events where the photo exhibit is present, we usually set up fun events for youth to "try out" Scouting. One table might feature a water pistol target range, another a balloon race, still another a "bop the mouse" activity. This provides a "safe" place for a child to experience some Scouting fun, without any commitment.

We always have an information table for those parents and youth interested in joining a section.

Our photo exhibit has really raised Scouting's profile in our community. Not only does it make recruiting easier, but it rekindles the memories of youth and parents alike.

Λ

— *Lynda Koudys is a Cub leader with the 1st North Grimsby Pack, Ontario.*

WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED!

by Ben Kruser

THIS ARTICLE OFFICIALLY INTRODUCES Scouts Canada's new "Lifestyle" hat line. If Scouts Canada's programs reflect the slogan, "Preparing for life is what we are about", then Scouting is more than Monday night activities. It's about teaching a way of life — hence a lifestyle. To reflect this lifestyle, Supply Services will start building the foundation in September 1997 for an exciting line of outdoor wear suitable for Scouting program use.

To start off this line, we are proud to introduce a high quality bush hat. Designed for rugged outdoor use, but sharp enough for general wear, the bush hat has the following features: 100% cotton prewashed canvas, natural colour with navy colour underbrim, designer label and hat ribbon, chin strap with lace lock, gun metal finish ventilators and snaps.



The bush hat meets the Canadian Dermatology Association recommendations that children should wear a hat whose broad brim goes all around the head to shade the face, ears and back of neck. The blue underbrim acts to shield the eyes from reflected light coming up from the ground or water. Inside the hat is a nifty compartment to store money or notes as well as a foam piece to make the hat float. You can't find a better quality, more rugged hat for \$15.88.

What about winter wear? Scouts Canada now carries a beefy polar fleece toque and neck tube. The toque is warm even on the coldest days, and cool enough for school and everyday wear. The specially designed fleece neck tube is an excellent accessory. Slip it over the head and around the neck for excellent cold-weather protection. When the temperature drops or wind picks up, pull the neck tube up to cover the nose, cheeks and mouth. If used in combination with the toque, the set makes a better, more flexible clothing system than a balaclava or hat and scarf. If the toque or neck tube gets wet, just give it a hard shake and it'll be practically dry. Beavers will also have their own specially designed toque with a Beaver emblem on the front.

Look for these outstanding designs in local Scout Shops.

Λ

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103rd Spruce Grove Group

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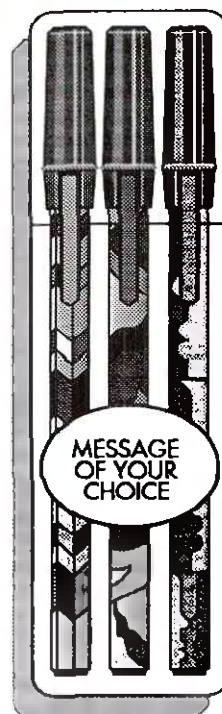
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Linking Without the Terror

by Ian Mitchell

I CAN STILL RECALL MY FIRST NIGHT WITH a Scout troop. I was 10 and weighed about as much as a bag of chips. I entered the school gym, a small room with metal radiators along the side and a stage at one end. The leader greeted me cheerfully, then told the other Scouts, all of whom weighed in at over 150 lbs, that tonight the troop would be joined by older Cubs who were preparing to become Scouts. As I scanned the room I heard the leader say that we would be playing games for most of the evening... starting with floor hockey.

Floor hockey! He was kidding, right?! Wrong.

What it Is and What it Isn't

Successful linking activities must be planned as any other event. The primary object of a linking activity is to introduce the youth to the program in an age-appropriate and skill-appropriate way. Some leaders might say the point is to have new members meet the troop so they will feel like part of the group. But did you ever feel part of a group after only one meeting? If you have ever tried something completely new, do you even recall who was in the room at the time?

Effective linking activities will make new members comfortable with the program. It won't blatantly point out what

they don't know or how much more skilled present members are than they. *Instead, the linking event should open the new members' eyes to the many possibilities and wide variety in the Scout program.*

Cubs to Scouts?

The most obvious events, and perhaps the easiest ones to plan, are those where Cubs attend a Scout activity. In most cases, these include a chance for new members to experience ceremonies, play games and follow the skills sessions for an evening. Watch out to ensure that Scouts don't ignore the Cubs. Prepare for this by reminding Court of Honour members before the meeting takes place how they felt on their first night.

Scouts to Cubs?

Linking sections is a two-way street. Why not plan your troop gathering at the Cub meeting location? (You'll need to arrange this beforehand with the Cub leader.) Cubs will feel as if they are still on their familiar ground, thus removing any fear. This may encourage them to consider Scouts.

This scenario has an additional advantage. It's harder for Scouts to act as "big shots" on strange ground and in someone else's territory. With the Scouts out of their element, you'll avoid some of the inherent problems young members might experience being in a group of older youth.

Built-In Links

Linking opportunities have always been part of our suggested programming. Summer family camps, year-end group activities and events such as Scoutrees, all provide opportunities for linking sections.

With the new Cub program introduced recently, a new form of recognition was added to alleviate the feeling of "starting over" when a Cub moved on to Scouts. These Activity Awards have taken the form of square badges which look a lot like Achievement Badges. Cubs earn these awards while in the pack and transfer them to the Scout sash when they move up to the troop. The award requirements ensure that new Cubs have some basic troop skills. When (as a Scout) the equivalent Scout Badge is earned, the Activity Award (green boarder) is replaced with the appropriate Achievement Badge.

Linking activities within your program are limited only by your troop's imagination and resources. The more times a Cub experiences some Scout fun and learning, the more likely it is he or she will want to join in the fall. But remember, *put yourself in their shoes*. Would you want to play floor hockey? λ



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Campcraft Badge
Personal Fitness Badge

Safety Badge

Citizen Badge
(no linkage available)

SCOUTER'S 5

Welcome In

The leaders stood at the Golden Gate
Faces were worn and old.

They merely asked the Man of Fate
Admission to the fold.

What did you do? St. Peter asked,
To seek admission here?

We were Beaver leaders down on Earth
For many and many a year.

The gate swung sharply open
Then St. Peter touched the bell,

"Come in," he said, "and take a harp
You've had your share of hell."

— *Author Unknown (Thanks to Hazel Hallgren,
Red Deer, AB.)*

Thoughts to Consider

Many religions have quotes and gems of truth
worth repeating and considering. Here is a sam-
pling of thoughts gathered from a variety of faiths
around the world. Use them to encourage discus-
sion and reflection in your group.

May my thoughts and feelings be such that I
may always act in a simple and straight-forward
manner.

— *Jain "My Prayers"*

Happy are they who tell the truth,
For their words are believed.

Happy are the helpful,
For they know that they are needed.
Happy are they who make things,
For they have gifts for others.

Happy are they who play fair,
For they are welcome in games.
Happy are the friendly
For they make friends.

— *Adapted from Doris Clore DeMaree.*

Scouter's 5 Minutes, p.783

June/July '97

SKITS

The Reluctant Lawnmower

The scene opens with one youth on hands and
knees acting like a lawnmower.

Owner: (Yanking on imaginary rope while mower
sputters) "This darned old mower! I can't
get it going. I need some help." (A youth
comes to help)

Helper #1: "So you just want me to yank on this rope,
and get it started? Easy!" (Starts yank-
ing rope)

Mower: (Sputters, bobs up and down, but doesn't
start)

Helper #1: "I'm sorry. I just can't seem to get it going.
Have you checked the gas?"

Owner: "Yes I have. Thanks anyway. Well, let's see
who else has a strong arm." (Another
youth comes and helps) "What I need you
to do is give a real good yank on the start-
ing rope and make it run."

Helper #2: "Sure thing." (Gives a yank several times)

Mower: (Bobs up and down several times
sputtering, but doesn't start)

Helper #2: "Sorry. I can't do it either." (Shrugs and
walks away)

Owner: "What I need is someone big and strong."
(Looking around the audience the owner
selects a popular leader with a good sense
of humour.)

Popular Leader: (Bends down and pulls cord)

Mower: (Sputters, coughs, starts to vibrate and
begins to run)

Owner: "There! All it needed was a good jerk...
(pause)... with a terrific sense of humour!"

*Make sure this skits ends with the leader being
recognized for his or her sense of humour.*

Skits, p.173

June/July '97

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the leader

The Dog Bite

The scene opens at a bus stop with a man and woman waiting. A dog is lying nearby on the ground.

Man: "Does your dog bite?"

Woman: "No. He's never bitten anyone in his life."

(The dog leaps to his feet and viciously attacks the man's ankles.)

Man: "I thought you said that your dog didn't bite!"

Woman: "That's not my dog!"

Fool 'Em Fast

The leader should encourage the audience to respond as quickly as possible.

Leader: "What comes after nine?"

Audience: "Ten!"

Leader: "What comes after ninety-nine?"

Audience: "A hundred!"

Leader: "What comes after nine hundred and ninety-nine?"

Audience: "A thousand!"

Leader: "What comes after nine thousand, ninety-nine?"

Audience: "Ten thousand!"

Leader: "Wrong! Nine thousand one hundred!"

— These last two skits come from Colin Wallace, a trainer in Greater Toronto Region.

Skits, p.174

Let there be harmony with our own people, and harmony with people who are strangers to us; (God) create between us and the strangers a unity of hearts.

— *Atharva Veda*

May God protect us both; may He nourish us both; may we work together with vigour; may our study make us illuminated; may there be no hate between us.

— *Katha Upnishad*

Righteousness is good morality, and wrongdoing is that which wavers in your soul and which you dislike people finding out about.

— *Hadish (Traditions)*

The earth is firm beneath my feet,
The sun shines bright above,
And here stand I so straight and strong,
All things to know and love.

— *Sprindrift, in Poems, Songs and Miscellany.*

O Morning Star! When you look down upon us, give us peace and refreshing sleep.

Great Spirit! Bless our children, friends and visitors through a happy life. May our trails lie straight and level before us.

Let us live to be old. We are your children.

— *The Prayers of Man*

Gossip and Rumour

You who believe, if a scoundrel should bring you some piece of news, clear up the facts lest you hurt some folk out of ignorance, and afterwards fall regretful over what you have done.

— *The Apartments 49: 6*

Scouter's 5 Minutes, p.784



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Get Rid of the 'Loose Ends' Before Relaxing

by Rob Stewart

Ahhh, summer!

You're relaxing by the lake or the blow-up pool in the backyard thinking "another Scouting year has successfully ended." But wait. Something is nagging in the back of your mind... a sense that there's an unfinished task to do before you can truly kick back.

But what could it be? Everything is in place for a smooth fall start-up. In fact your group has even held early registration.

Did you make sure everyone received some form of recognition over the past year? That's it! Of course your group said "Thank you" to everyone on the section leadership teams and helped at camp, but a few Scouters are due further recognition. Check your notes. Are there any Scouters who have earned their five year pin? What about your plan to write an *Outstanding Service to Scouting* award application for Jane Smith?

Take a bit of time now in the calm of summer to recognize people before the hectic pace of September arrives and you lose another opportunity to say "Thanks!" in the scramble.

The service recognition is easy; just confirm the years of service of people on your list, and contact your local council office to order service pins.

What about Jane? Previous columns in this magazine have provided advice

on the "how to's" of preparing an Outstanding Service application. Another fine resource to help you is the booklet *A Guide to the Honours & Awards of Scouts Canada*. Get a copy from your local Scout Shop.

Start the new Scouting year by presenting Jane and others with a token of appreciation on behalf of the Movement. What a great way to energize your leaders. No one will expect it. As well, you may inspire some who were not sure whether they wanted to serve another year.

A little time spent now in the warmth of summer will bring lots of warmth to the Scouters in your group in the cool days of fall.

New Recognition Items

Over the past year the National Honours & Awards Committee has made changes to some recognition items. Use these certificates, pins and emblems to honour your leaders.

Certificates for Outstanding Service, Gallantry, & Meritorious Conduct

We've updated the certificates for this recognition to provide a fresh new symbol of the awards program.

Certificates for 10, 20, 25, 50 & 75 Years of Service

Scouters in the field asked for a certificate to mark these years of

service. Get the certificates through local council offices, and present them together with appropriate service pins.

Emblem for Certificate of Commendation

This is a cloth uniform emblem to identify those who have received the Certificate of Commendation. The emblem will be presented to all those who win the Certificate of Commendation.

Lapel Pins for Medal for Good Service, Medal of Merit, Silver Acorn, & Silver Wolf

We've developed lapel pins for the above awards so Scouters who have earned them can display the recognition publicly when not in uniform.

Honours & Awards Poster

Look for a new Honours & Awards poster in early September which will show all medals and certificates available within our awards program.

Thanks!

The National Honours & Awards Committee thanks those who took the time to write up an awards application on behalf of other deserving Scouters. Thanks also to those Scouters who suggested improvements to our awards program. ^

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Another Terrific Year!

Over the past year many readers have told us how much they enjoy the **Leader Magazine** and its many program ideas that *you* submit. Congratulations to everyone who contributes their work so others may benefit. Below we list comments by some **Leader** readers.

The November and December issues were great! Of particular interest was Leslie Forward's article, "Final Year Beavers: The Leaders' Challenge." It helped Scouters lay out a three-year plan that allows them to become far more creative in their programming. "Woggle Mania" and "Wrapping Tube Beaver Lodges" were also terrific!

Not only is the magazine interesting and inspiring reading, it's also visually attractive. It has nice layouts and cute Beaver cartoon characters. Your Art Director is very talented.

The Leader just keeps on getting better!

— *Nadia Diakun-Thibault, Oxford Mills, ON.*

I have been a Scouter for seven years and have almost every **Leader** issue. They are an invaluable tool for our pack. I found the two articles on spirited children (Beavers) particularly good. Please keep up the good work. I don't know where or how you come up with the valuable material each month, but please keep it coming.

— *Randy McNutt, Bedford, NS.*

I've worked with numerous lay and professional journals over the last 30 years. I'm pleased to say **the Leader** is tops for its considerate care of contributors.

— *Dr. Sharon E. Cregier, Charlottetown, PEI.*

The Leader Magazine is probably one of the best training tools any leader can have.

— *Mitch St. Clair, Toronto, ON.*

I enjoy reading **the Leader** and look forward to each issue. I was especially thrilled to read the article on the Newfoundland program in January. Congratulations! I lift my beret to the staff.

— *Alain Guy, Gatineau, QC.*

I was delighted to read your March issue and see the article on the Purim Carnival, which has always been one of my favourite holidays.

I feel the whole issue was great. As an old Cub and Cubmaster, I congratulate you.

— *Hon. Edwin A. Goodman, P.C.*

The quality of the magazine has been consistent whenever I pick it up. It's also fun to read! You do a great job showing us how to celebrate our heritage.

— *Barbara Quickfall, Waterloo, ON.*

I would like to thank you for all the great articles that appear in **the Leader**. It truly shows that the Scouting Movement is alive and well in Canada.

— *Bo Wallenius, Victoria, BC.*

The Leader is very valuable. I'm just starting my 6th year as a colony Scouter, but have only been receiving your magazine for the last two. I don't know how we ever existed before receiving all these great ideas that are "shared" with us in every issue. It's one of the best resources! Keep up the great work!

— *Diane Barkley, Brantford, ON.*

I congratulate you on the excellent job of creating a useful and very interesting publication.

— *Perry Fuchs, Baltimore, Maryland, USA.*

I have been receiving **the Leader** since I joined Scouting sixteen years ago. It's an absolutely marvellous source of information and pleasure. Like many other Scouters, the "Scouter's Five" column is my favourite part of this great magazine. Thank you for many years of reading enjoyment.

— *B.J. Finlay, Longueuil, QC.*

Keep up the good (excellent) work with **the Leader** and again, many thanks for your hard work and enthusiasm.

— *Chris J. Seymour, Kentville, NS. X*

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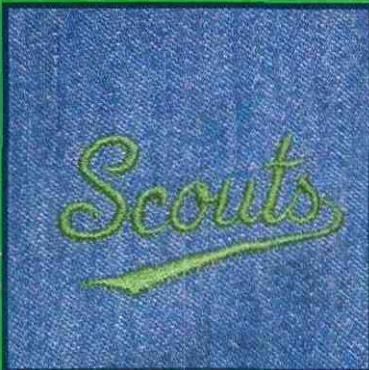
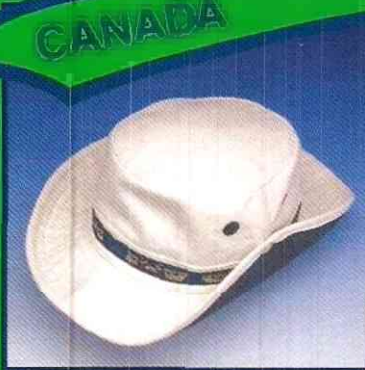
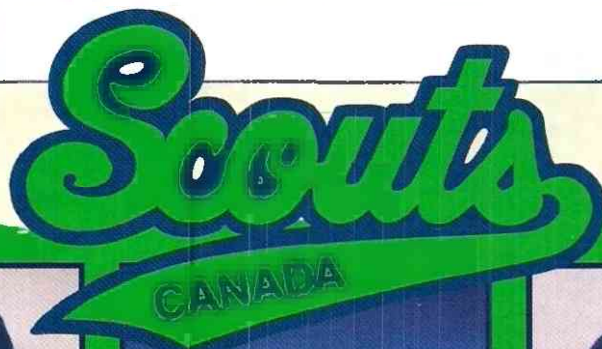
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