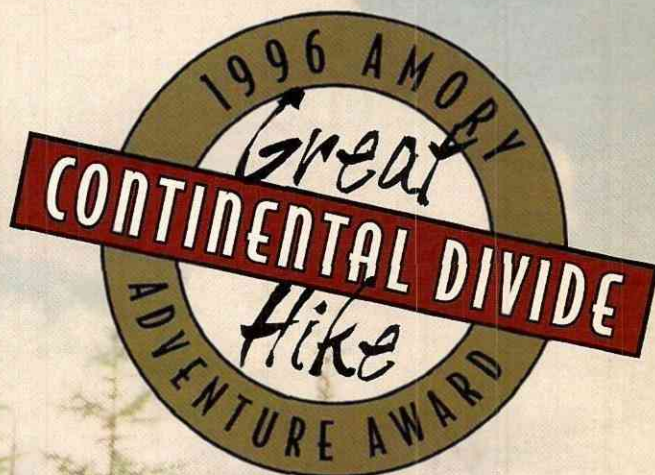


the leader



NOVEMBER 1997

VOLUME 27 NO. 3



HUG A TREE • GIFT CRAFTS • HOW TO TALK WITH YOUTH

From the Commissioner's Tent

by Herb Pitts

THIS WILL BE THE LAST note from my tent; my term as National Commissioner ends in mid-November. I joined National Council as Treasurer in 1981, and progressed through a number of appointments, including President and International Commissioner, before taking up the National Commissioner's job in 1992.

So much has happened since I joined National Council in 1981! I've attended three world jamborees, three national jamborees, five provincial jamborees, inter-American and world conferences, as well as Boy Scouts of America meetings and courses. I've participated in adult working groups at Gilwell Park, and taken part in hundreds of committee and Council activities. Some events stand out, so I'd like to share a few with you.

Youth Leadership

Youth leadership of Scouting has increased through recognition that we are a Movement not only *for* youth, but *of* youth. Youth committees or forums are gaining acceptance; that will serve us well in the future. The first National Youth Forum in 1993 — a favourite recollection — has evolved into a very effective Youth Committee.

In November 1992 we announced that Scouts Canada was "going co-ed." Since then, many groups (from Beavers

to Rovers) have admitted female members. With few exceptions, this decision has proven beneficial for everyone.

New Cub and Rover programs have been launched recently, while revised Scout and Venturer programs will appear in the near future. We are improving our commitment to volun-



*As Camp Chief for CJ'97,
Herb Pitts helped lay
a cairn at the jamboree site.*

teer recruitment and development, making it more formal and all-encompassing. Adherence to these procedures will serve notice that we're putting the right people in the right job. These efforts will improve program delivery and member retention.

Changes to uniforms are never easy. National Council decided to remove our uniform headaddress after much consultation at all levels. Hun-

dreds of volunteers in the field were asked for input, in addition to the Youth Committee and its networks.

A Bright Future

A quarter million members, sixty million trees planted, ninety years old, 14,000 at CJ'97, 200,000 hits on the web site! What incredible accomplishments!

But let's aim for a half million members, 100 million trees, 100 years old, 15,000 at CJ'01, and a million hits on the web site. All this is within reach of our dynamic Movement.

I'm very optimistic about Scouting's future. The commitment, talent and energy of our leaders is abundantly clear. We've got great volunteers, professional staff and youth. Scouting's outlook is bright.

Thank you for your encouragement, cooperation and friendship over the years. Always, I'll cherish the honour of being your Commissioner. I wish every possible success to Sam Elsworth as he takes over from me. He's a great Scouter who'll serve you well. And last, thanks to my wife Marianne and the members of my family, for their ever-present support and understanding.

All the best. See you on the trail! A

Herb Pitts
National Commissioner

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83rd Calgary "C" Venturers

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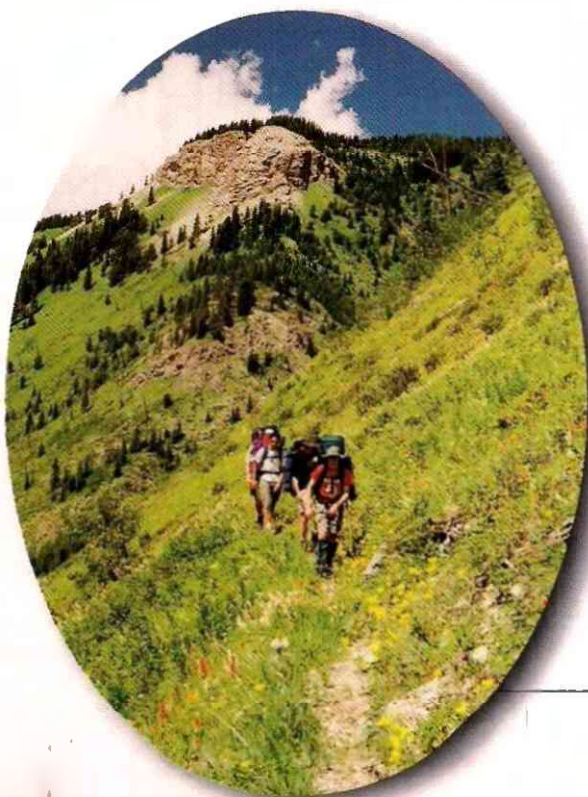
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Climbing Ever-Higher!

1996 AMORY ADVENTURE AWARD

Great Continental Divide Hike

by 83rd Calgary "C" Venturers



The Continental Divide.

Something about these words fired all our imaginations. Perhaps it was the promise of adventure of crossing the highest mountain range in North America. Perhaps the allure involved planning a wilderness 165-kilometre,

ten-day backpacking trip through high altitude bear country. At any rate, the area wasn't completely unknown to us. As a Venturer company, we had hiked some parts of the trail during previous summer adventures.

Our company (the 83rd Calgary "C" Venturers) consists of an advisor, Tracey Stock, and six Venturers: Chris Koch, Dean Spankie, Gary Oates, David Frew, Gibson Scott, and Michael Forseth. Being experienced campers, canoeists, and hikers, we didn't need to hone outdoor or first aid skills; instead we studied our proposed route and brainstormed over possible difficulties. These included bears, food supplies and poor weather.

Because a highway crossed the route four days into the trip, our advisor agreed to meet us there to replenish our food supply. That would lighten our loads considerably. Also, if we ran into trouble, this would be an easy exit point.

As a company we practised many emergency bear attacks:

dropping to the ground, putting hands over the back of the neck and playing dead. By the time we packed our gear into an old school bus and drove north to Banff — near the trailhead — we knew we were ready.



"Rock on!" The engineers who designed this bridge clearly expected hikers to play on it.

Bear Attack!

Our first day dawned wet and cold. After unloading gear at our Ottertail River trailhead and setting off down the trail, we met a University of Alberta scientist who was studying bears in the area.

"I hope you're all carrying bear mace," he warned.

"All we have are whistles and bear bells," we replied hesitantly. After shrugging and wishing us well, he continued on his way, leaving us with an uneasy, exposed feeling.

Dense bush surrounded us on all sides. Visibility was limited to less than ten metres. Soon our imaginations took wing. Every noise from the bush sounded like a bear getting ready to charge.

"Let's do an emergency bear exercise," someone whispered.

"Okay, I'll lead," another added.

"Bear attack!"

The words galvanized our attention. Immediately, everyone dropped to the trail, hugging the back of their necks with sweaty hands. Most of us avoided puddles during the exercise; after several seconds we brushed off the damp earth and continued on our way, feeling slightly better.

By 6 p.m., when we pitched our tents, our confidence levels had regained their composure. A hot meal of beef, barbecue sauce and tortillas, washed down with hot chocolate, topped the day off.

Day Two

The weather made no promises as we rose late the next morning. A 22 kilometre hike over pretty rugged ascending terrain awaited us. We wolfed down a breakfast of luke-warm weiners and headed out on a soggy, steep trail. Within several hours the trees had thinned out and rocks littered our route.

Stopping for lunch in the early afternoon, we set our packs down in a rocky clearing. A heavy drizzle had been falling for an hour. Pita bread and sliced meat were on the menu. When Dean cracked open the mustard, a spurt of yellow exploded outward.

"Hey!" He said jumping backward, surprised.

"It's the air pressure," said Mike. "Remember, we've been climbing steadily all morning." (Who says physics is dull?)

Shortly after reaching the top of Goodsir Pass we started down the other side. By late afternoon our knees were aching — the gradient was so steep. More and more often we slipped on the wet trail.

Soon we faced a difficult choice: should we tackle Wolverine Pass (as planned) or pitch our tents at near-



by Helmet Creek? Climbing the pass would mean hiking at night. In our exhausted condition, that could prove disastrous.

"Risk-taking and over-enthusiasm can get us into big trouble here," someone said. We all agreed. Flexibility is the first rule of safety; we staggered into Helmet Creek late that evening, made a pasta supper and passed out in our sleeping bags.

Climbing Ever-Higher

Next morning the sky was clear and the temperature warm. It remained this way for most of the rest of the trip. In no time we had gobbled down breakfast and were climbing a steep trail carved into the side of a hill. Far below, a suspension bridge spanned a river. We crossed it half an hour later, and played "swing the bridge."

Over the next days we climbed more passes, skidded down slippery slopes, dove into glacial lakes, and fed local mosquitoes the best blood in the mountain range.

Life Memories

When we started this trek, we were physically clean and not nearly as seasoned — in both knowledge and smell — as when we finished. But the hike knit our already firm friendships closer together.

"Break time!" This usually also meant, "Time to check your blisters."

What did we learn?

We learned to get along with each other, sometimes in highly stressful conditions. More importantly, we came to accept and overlook each others' character differences.

Chris Koch summed up the camaraderie that built up between us all. "We saw some of the most beautiful scenery in the world, but this is what I'll remember. We were hiking up the bone-dry Ball Pass. My legs were like jelly and I felt that no trip was worth so much effort. I was lagging behind the others, and I just wanted to be magically transported home. Then, for no apparent reason, Michael dropped back to walk with me. He kept me company just to help."

We all discovered that spirit of helping — that spirit of Scouting — high up in the Continental Divide.

AMORY AWARD WINNERS

Venturers from the 83rd Calgary "C" Venturer Company in Alberta won first prize in the 1996 Amory Adventure Award for their Continental Divide Backpacking expedition.

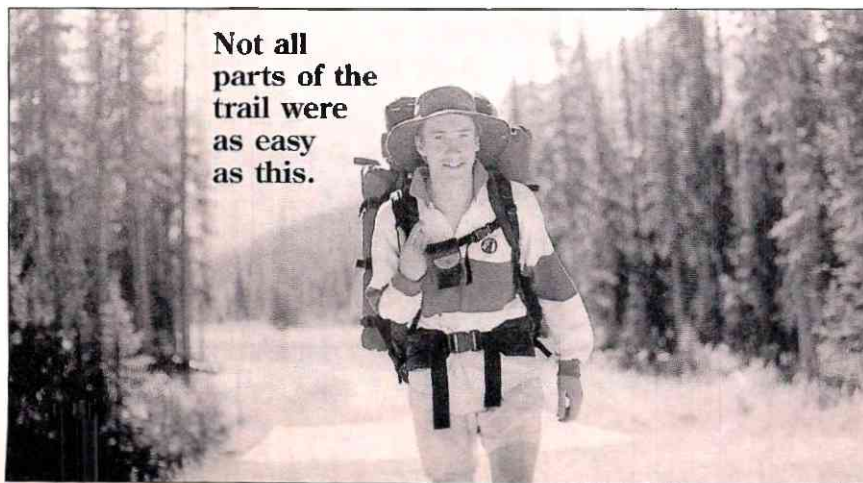
Second prizes went to two companies: the 144th Lake Bonavista Sea Venturers (Calgary, Alberta) for their Ghost River wilderness hike, and the 21st Nepean Venturers (Ontario) for their Killarney Provincial Park hike.

Third prize went to the 1st Port Moody Venturers (B.C.) who hiked along a part of the Canadian Centennial Trail.

Congratulations to all Venturers who entered. Detailed accounts of the winning adventures will appear in future Leader issues.

Deadline for 1997 Amory Adventure Award entries: January 31, 1998.

Not all parts of the trail were as easy as this.



"Let's Have a Spiritual

SCOUTING GROUPS ACROSS

the country have sent us Christmas program ideas focusing on the spiritual dimension. Instead of over-emphasizing Santa Claus and presents, they concentrated their entire December program on the message of the first Christmas. This program would tie into various other themes including peace, community service, or world brotherhood. A good resource for your program might be a spiritual leader in your community.



Photo: Allen Macnamer

"Making this Advent calendar was a real blast."

Sorting the Christmas Mail

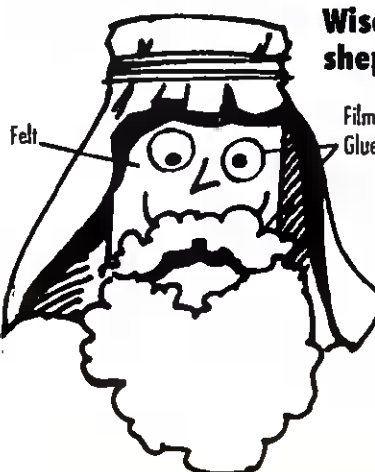
This game is an excellent gathering activity for Beavers or Cubs. It uses old Christmas cards. Cut each card into four, keeping one piece of each. After mixing up all the card pieces on the floor, the "Postmaster" should give out all the single card pieces to the players, who must find the other three pieces on the ground. When a child assembles an entire card, give him another single piece and let the fun continue.

Shepherd Woggle

For each woggle you'll need a film canister, black markers, cotton, googly eyes, glue, and various colours of felt.

Cut the bottom out of the film canister. Wrap light brown felt around the canister. (This is the shepherd's face.) Glue it in place. Cut out a headdress, and glue a string around the bottom of it. (See diagram) Mark in a nose and mouth; attach the eyes. Glue on some cotton to form a beard and mustache.

Wiseman or shepherd woggle

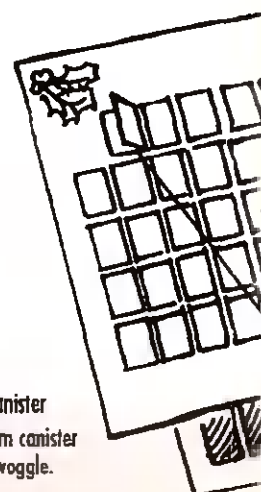


Felt

Film canister
Glue on eyes, beard and headdress.



Hot glue 1/3 canister onto back of film canister for a Beaver's woggle.



ly-Focused Christmas"

by Rick Smith and Hazel Hallgren

If you're making Beaver woggles, hot glue a small piece of film canister to the back of the woggle turned 90 degrees to accommodate the necker.

Advent Calendars

Advent calendars are incredibly popular with Beavers and Cubs. Your group can make individual ones, or one giant calendar for the entire colony or pack.

Here's how to make a large advent calendar from two pieces of bristol board. Start by marking off an identical grid pattern of 24 squares on both bristol boards. Leave at least a 2 cm margin around each square. (See diagram)

On one of the two boards use an exacto knife to cut out three (3) sides of each square. (This is the front part of the calendar, with the opening doors.) Do NOT fold back the doors. (See diagram)

On the *outside* of each door glue pictures either cut from Christmas cards or random drawings from the Christmas story. Mark a number (1-24) on each door, starting at the upper left. Now flip the bristol board over, so you can work on its back. (See diagram) Write a little bit of the Christmas story on the first door



Dress your Cubs up as shepherds for a nativity play.

Egypt. (Important! Make sure that when the doors open, the pictures and writing are both facing in the "up" position.)

Now put this bristol board aside and take the second piece. Glue pictures into each marked frame, once more in sequence starting with the announcement of the coming Messiah's birth. You might want to coordinate the pictures on the back of the doors (the first bristol board piece) with this piece.

Finally, glue the two large bristol board pieces together taking great care not to glue the doors shut. On December 1 open the front door and start reading the story.

Holiday Scene

Beavers from the 1st New Maryland Colony decided to make winter scenes using pieces of styrofoam (10 cm x 15 cm) as the base. In the middle they glued an upright pine cone, representing a tree. Then they cut very small mitten-shapes from different colours of construction paper. These were glued underneath the tree, and represented gifts. Finally they wrapped bright ribbon with small beads around the 'tree' to represent lights and ornaments.

Pretzel Wreath



Glue on another row of pretzels when first row is dry

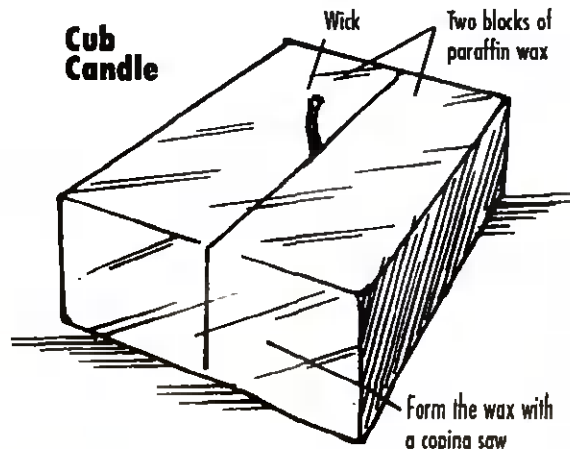
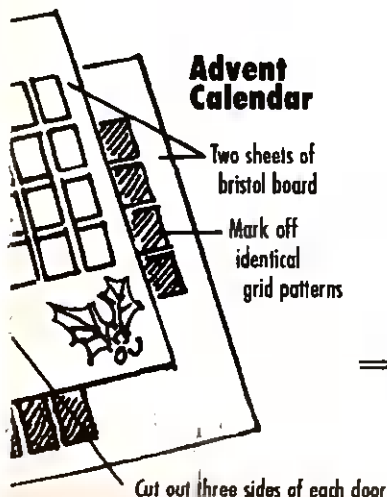


Photo: Allen Macartney

Loading the Wisemen's Camels

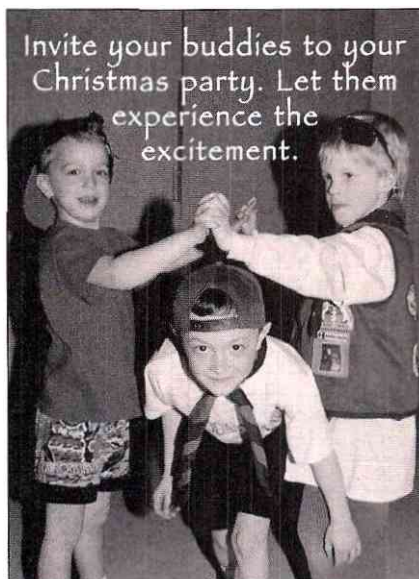
Line your group up in relay formation. In front of each team place a pile of various sized boxes (representing presents). You must have enough boxes for each member of the team. At the far end of the room place a chair for each team. The first child in each line becomes a wiseman on a camel.

On a signal, the child at the head of each line picks up a present, runs to her "wiseman," places the gift on his lap and runs back to tag off the next player. All players repeat the action, piling gifts in their wisemen's arms. If a wiseman drops one or more presents, the team starts again.

Make this more exciting by having the wiseman sit on a potato sack on the floor. When he is holding all the presents, his team must pull him around a table set up at the far end of the room.

Cub Candles

Make these candles into whatever shape you wish: a log house, a manger



scene, Santa Claus, a sleigh, a kub kar, or a gift.

To make a log cabin, start with two blocks of paraffin wax. 'Glue' these together with hot wax, after putting a piece of heavy butcher cord in between

the blocks to act as a wick. (Leaders might have to experiment to find the best 'gluing' method.)

With a small coping saw, form your wax block into whatever shape you wish. Add a chimney by 'gluing' on a small chunk of wax to the roof. (See diagram)

To make colours, whip up some hot paraffin and add food colouring. Smear this over your house with a knife. With other coloured wax, paint on a door, windows, shutters, and boards.

Note: Supervise your candle-making activity closely. Because hot wax can be very dangerous, this is a craft for Cubs and Scouts *only*. First aid training would tie into this activity nicely.

Pretzel Wreath

This makes a nice tree ornament or fridge magnet. On a hard surface, glue together six small pretzels. When it's dry, glue another row of small pretzels, staggered over the first. (See diagram)

Photo: Murray Cameron

The Scouting Night Before Christmas

This adaptation of the famous poem would fit well into a Beaver family campfire program. For Cub packs, challenge your Sixer Council to think up words with a *Jungle Book* theme.

'Twas the night before Christmas,
and down at the pond,
All the Beavers were singing and carrying on.
(Sing: *Jingle Bells*)

The stockings were hung
on the branches with care,
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there.
Beavers and Jones' were all fast asleep,
No one was moving, not one little peep.
Beavers in their lodges and Jones' in their house,
You couldn't even hear the tiniest mouse.
When out in the woods, there arose such a clatter,
Keeo got up to see what was the matter.
Out of the lodge he swam in a flash,
Right to the surface with hardly a splash.
The moon was shining on new fallen snow,
It looked just like midday with a soft glow.
When what to Keeo should suddenly appear,
But a red sleigh and eight reindeer.
And there was a driver, so lively and quick,
Keeo knew in a moment it must be St. Nick.
With two little elves also in sight,
Santa must have lots of work tonight.
(Sing: *Santa Claus Is Coming to Town*)

Now Dasher and Dancer and Prancer and Vixen,
On Comet, on Cupid, on Donner and Blitzen,
Through the tree tops, watch the boughs,
Dash away through the night now.
Santa and friends came that night on the fly,
Came to the Jones' and Beavers from high.
He landed his sleigh in the woods on the ground,
To fill all the stockings and not make a sound.
A bundle of toys he had flung on his back.
He looked like a peddler as he opened his pack.
His elves checked the Beavers
to see they were asleep
And then checked the Jones,
so they wouldn't cheat.
Santa saw Keeo and gave him a wink,
So Keeo wasn't sure what to think.
They finished their work and sprang
back to their sleigh,
And soon they were once again on their way.
Keeo returned to the lodge to sleep,
And wait for the Beavers to wake up to treats.
But he heard Santa say, as he drove out of sight,
"Merry Christmas to all and to all
a good night!"
(Sing: *We Wish You a Merry Christmas*)

Hang it from a tree with ribbon or hot glue a magnet on the back for your refrigerator.

Jesse Tree

"What is Christmas, and where did it come from?"

If this is a question your Beavers and Cubs have asked, a Jesse tree will provide some answers. It will also show the linkages between the Jewish and Christian faiths. (The tree is named after Jesse, the father of King David.)

This activity will help Cubs earn their World Religion Badge. It's also a great idea for a Scout's Own. All you need is a tall branch from a dead tree 'planted' in a pot. During Advent, make craft decorations to hang from the tree that relate to the Christmas story. Gathered around the tree with your craft ornaments, tell the story, and afterwards hang your ornament on the tree — one per night. (A spiritual leader in your community might wish to tell the biblical stories before you hang the ornaments.)

Your first ornament might be a circular globe (craft balls painted like the world). Taking several minutes and giving examples where possible, a leader could tell how God has loved us from the start of the world. The second ornament might be a cardboard tent. (Abraham followed God's instruction to leave his home and live in a tent.) Other ornaments might be a shepherd's staff (God leads his people), a shiny star (the star of Bethlehem), a camel (the magi rode on camels), a bright valentine heart (God's love for us through the centuries), a lamb (Jesus is the Lamb of God), an angel figure (angels announced the Messiah's birth to the poor shepherds).

PASS THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT!

Ask a spiritual leader in your neighbourhood to read the Christmas story to your colony or pack. Then photocopy out the word search puzzle and ask older Beavers and Cubs to find twenty-one hidden words.

How do the words "peace," "singing," "prince," and "magi" relate to the story? How do "friendship," "smile," "poor," "promise," and "kind" tie into the

Scouting Promise and Law? In small groups discuss what your colony or pack can do to make this season happier for those less fortunate in your community.

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

Family Campfire

At your last meeting before Christmas plan an outside campfire program for the entire family.

In family and lodge groupings, let your Beavers walk toward the campfire and sit down. After the opening, each lodge presents a song, a skit and a yell. Then sing several favourite seasonal carols, and enjoy a participation story made up from *Friends of the Forest*. Do your leaders want to act out a skit? This is a great time for it. Follow up with a Scouter's Five. (A Jesse tree story might fit in well here.) Drinks and treats can follow. Last year after the campfire,

1st New Maryland Colony leaders gave out photographs of each child wearing full fire fighter's gear — taken during a fall outing. It was a real hit!

"Show and Share"

For your first meeting in January feature a "show and share" session where the children and leaders bring in a favourite holiday gift they received. In small groups discuss the gifts (what is it? who gave it? why is it special?), then let others play with them within the group. This will foster a really positive spirit of group sharing; everyone will know they are playing with someone's special toy and will show great respect.

Your Christmas theme program might include a visit to a senior's home, or house-to-house carolling, or a real sleigh ride. When you try to recapture the true meaning of Christmas, you'll also recapture some Scouting spirit. ^

— Rick Smith is a party-meister with the 1st New Maryland Colony, New Brunswick. Hazel Hallgren is a jolly Scouter from Red Deer, Alberta.

An outdoor campfire would top off your group's month-long celebrations just nicely.

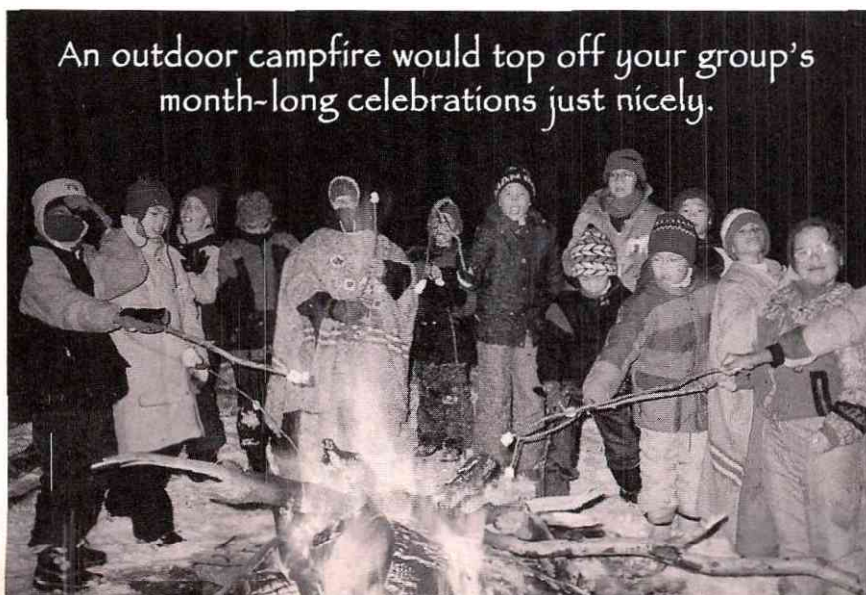


Photo: Yancy Utow

Program Links

Cubs: World Religion Badge.
Recycling Badge. Tawny Star A
(1 and 2) and B (3).

Recruitment vs. Retention

The role of PR

by John Rietveld

ON A POPULAR SCOUTING Internet chat group in late August, several leaders discussed ways their sections promote Scouting. It amounted to a casual recruitment and retention brainstorming session.

Mandy Smith of Joyceville, ON, said her district sent e-mail messages to radio stations and newspapers. As well, they set up Scouting information booths at fall fairs in the area. Several other Scouters announced registration nights by sending flyers to schools, and using church bulletins.

Soon I entered the discussion. "Have you heard Scouts Canada's fall radio Public Service Announcement (PSA)?" I asked. These are sent to all radio stations across Canada before Labour Day. The 30-second spot (aimed at young people aged 7-11, and their parents) carries a back-to-school/back-to-Scouting message.

It didn't take long for a debate to gather speed. "Is the targeted age group appropriate?" someone asked. Several people suggested that we needed to reach an older audience, while others felt an adult-only group should receive most of the attention. Eva Robinson, of the 68th Toronto Group, thought that if we could only attract kids to a really exciting Cub program, it would eventually bolster membership in Scouts and Venturers. Jo-Anne Fink of the 75th Old Mills Cubs said that she gets parents involved slowly at various activities. When they get a taste for Scouting she recruits them as permanent leaders.

This led directly to a recruitment vs. retention discussion. "Should we continue our efforts to attract new members to Scouting, or should we focus on retaining those already involved?"

The debate, and its impact on public relations, is not new.

Focusing Our Resources

Recently the National Communications Committee, as well as several provincial communications forums, wrestled with this question. Obviously

advertising, it can get people through the door to find out more about Scouting. Radio and television PSAs, articles in magazines, web sites, posters and banners, transit ads and displays at malls or county fairs are all effective PR recruiting methods. While PR (and advertising) is best suited to recruitment, it can also play an important retention role.

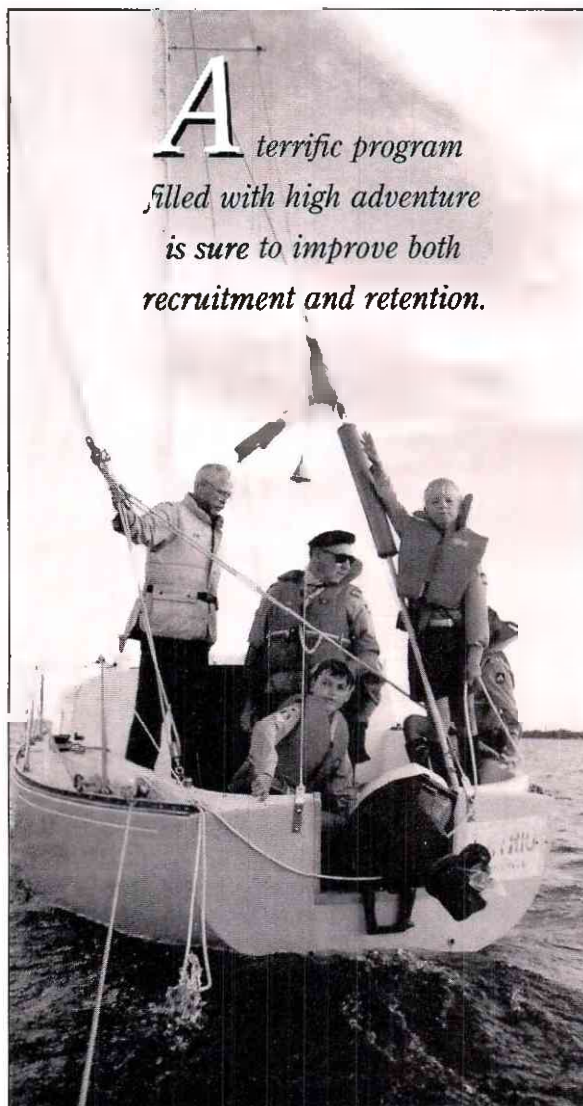
How?

Retention is never a problem for caring leaders who offer a quality program. Kids will always want to join their section. Once on board we must nurture and appreciate this type of exceptional leader, and here is where PR can help with retention. Local public relations volunteers should be active in annual recognition ceremonies to ensure leaders are thanked and receive awards for years of service.

The Leader magazine is a great tool partly because it makes the Scouters' job easier. By providing innovative program ideas, weekly meetings are more exciting and varied. The spin-off: leaders don't have to spend as much precious time developing great programs. **The Leader** also connects our members to the global Scouting Movement, and reinforces the knowledge that they are helping to change the world for the better.

Through regular communications and PR activities, Scouts Canada will continue to encourage new youth and adults to join our Movement. At the same time our programs, training and recognition activities must concentrate on excellence; part of this involves giving leaders vision for their role in molding Canadian youth.

You see, we don't really need to debate issues like recruitment vs. retention. What we need to do is provide an effective program of recruitment AND retention. ^



membership would increase if youth stayed in Scouting longer, but should Scouting use public relations to address the retention problem?

Some PR specialists would say no. PR is best suited to attracting youth and adults who are *not* involved in the Movement yet. PR helps raise awareness, and when supported by

Don't Get Lost in the Woods **HUG A TREE**

by Greg Greer

Exploring and enjoying the mysterious and magical world of Canada's great outdoors can provide some of the most cherished memories of youth. Let's use this natural sense of wonder to teach Beavers, Cubs and Scouts not only how to identify a sparrow, a squirrel or an otter, but to actually learn basic wilderness survival lessons. Here's how to start.

Hug-a-Tree Program

The R.C.M.P. has an outstanding video and basic survival program for youth between the ages of 5-14 called "Hug-A-Tree and Survive." The video and program teaches,

- how to avoid getting lost in the woods,
- what to do if you get lost,
- how *not* to get hurt,
- how you can help searchers find you.

After the video comes a presentation that shows life-saving techniques introduced in the video. The Hug-a-Tree program concludes with a question and answer period, and some take-home material. (The presenters are trained Rovers, senior Venturers and leaders who have received special Hug-a-Tree instruction.)

You can easily expand this Hug-a-Tree program so it lasts several weeks or even a month with the following ideas.

Real-Life Illustrations

Concentrate on survival examples that are common to both forest animals, and to our own wilderness living. Keep the lessons simple to minimize confusion.

Enlighten, don't frighten. Avoid being overly dramatic about hazards in nature. It might only backfire and scare them into not wanting to investigate the mysteries of nature. Instead, try to encourage youth to remember four basic lessons.

1. Know where you're going and where you've been.
2. When you realize you're lost, stop, and hug-a-tree.
3. Always stay warm and dry.
4. Listen for people calling your name, and answer them.

Use observation games to teach your youth how to become familiar with their surroundings. *Games from A to Z* (available in Scout Shops) has many activities you can adapt for this program. Teach your group to watch for refer-

ence points and natural objects that can be used as trail markers to help find their way back home.

Children who get lost in the forest sometimes panic and start running. Often they trip and get hurt needlessly. Encourage your members to stay in one place and wait for help once they realize they're lost.

Seek Shelter Game

This activity will teach youth how to wait until they are rescued. Each child must try to think like a deer and find a natural shelter out of the wind or rain, but still stay visible to searchers. When everyone has found a place, review the good and bad points of each site.

Tell them to hug a tree and adopt it as their temporary home. Once each child has found a tree to call home, get them to use leaves and pine boughs to make a small mattress or seat that will insulate them from the cold ground. (Animals do this too.) Show your kids how to hug their knees while sitting on their leaf and pine bough cushion. Also, teach them to tuck in their clothing so they retain valuable body heat.

Noise Travels Far

Just as a wolf howl echoes through the trees and carries for a long distance, a whistle sound travels far too. Give each child a whistle to carry while in the woods, then arrange for a leader to blow his whistle in the distance at a specific time so everyone can hear what it sounds like. (Make sure no one disturbs the forest silence unnecessarily.)

The outdoors is a great place for young people, but let's help make sure they enjoy it worry-free. A Hug-a-Tree program will really add to your Scouting enjoyment.

Want more information on Hug-a-Tree? Simply contact your local Scouting office or an RCMP detachment. ^

— Greg Greer is a tree-hugger in Ottawa.



If a child has a whistle, it makes finding him much easier.

Program Links

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

Sitting around a campfire one evening, two older Scouts shared their thoughts with me. "The thing I don't like about parents is that they want you to be what they were," Martin said. * "Or what they weren't," Daniel added. * During the next minutes we discussed the stresses of growing up. * Later, one of my Scouts came and asked privately...

"Scouter, Can We Talk?"

by Michael Lee Zwiers

Over the years, many young people have shared their troubles with me. Often I didn't know what to say or do, so I stumbled along in well-intentioned ignorance. Now I'm a child psychologist, and better equipped to offer helpful advice.

Unfortunately, youth don't go to professionals when they encounter problems. Peers are the ones who hear about difficulties first. But trusted coaches and volunteer leaders (such as Scouters) are often the first adults they're likely to approach.

As a Scouting leader, you'll meet many kids with a broad spectrum of life struggles and concerns. You may not feel prepared to deal with their issues adequately, but you can learn tips so your advice can start the healing.

Some Cautions

Just because someone shares a difficulty with you, doesn't mean you're the only person the youth is depending on for help. Keep focused on both the problem and the end goal: a healthy, happy youth. Here are some tips.

Try Not to Rescue

As a concerned human being, you'll probably want to make things better quickly, but don't take too much responsibility on your own shoulders. Aim to be a support; ultimately, you cannot be responsible for the person's total well-being. If you find yourself becoming too involved, consult another Scouter or a professional helper.

Try Not to Give Advice

Giving advice to someone else usually doesn't work well. For the most part, people know what their problems are. They just need someone to talk to as they work out what to do. Although young people have fewer life experiences, they can be resourceful and insightful when faced with solving their own problems.

Sometimes youth don't actually *want* to solve the problem; they just want someone to listen to, and appreciate, what they're going through — and that's okay.

Try Not to Blame Anyone

Teenagers often argue with parents. If a Scout should come to you and share how awful his father or mother is, don't agree. You might just make the situation far worse. Just listen to what the youth is saying, and remember that you're just hearing one side of the argument. In most cases, people can get angry with family members, yet still love them.

Don't Gossip or Tell Others

Youth will share things in confidence with those they respect. If you tell someone else who's not careful with sensitive information, it may really hurt the Scout. Never betray a confidence.

Positive Things to Do

Here are some positive actions that are appropriate in most situations.

1. Thank the youth for trusting you enough to share the concern.
2. Tell the person that you're sorry about what he or she is experiencing. Show sympathy, but don't overdo it. Even young children can tell when an adult is "talking down" to them.
3. Offer to be available if they want to talk further, but don't promise anything you can't deliver. Don't ever



Photo: Wayne Barrett

hint that you can make everything all right or solve their problems for them. False expectations may only aggravate the situation.

4. Listen quietly. Let the youth do most (or all) of the talking. If you are able to give the child nothing more than this, it can have strong therapeutic value.
5. Try to understand the concern as well as you can. Identify the problem. Are they having difficulties with another person or persons? What is the central issue? How long has the problem existed? How are they being affected? How has the person dealt with the issue before telling you?

The better you understand their circumstances, the better you'll be able to support them. Be interested, not nosy.

'Small' or BIG Problems

Does the problem seem small to you? Check back with the person soon to see how things are coming along. Maybe the problem is quickly developing into a personal crisis.

In a sympathetic way, find out answers to these questions: Is the Scouting youth coping well? Has the healing begun? Has the situation that caused the problem improved? Be willing to listen. In these days of high-speed rush in all aspects of life, a good listener is absolutely invaluable.

If the problem is serious enough, you may want to intervene further. Here are some steps to consider.

1. Consult a Professional.

You may know a counsellor, or a local school or community service centre may have a trained professional on staff. Make sure the 'professional' is trained; some aren't. Psychologists have at least a Master's degree — often a doctorate. Psychiatrists are medical doctors with a specialization in psychological problems and mental disorders. Counsellors can have a variety of training from universities, colleges, special institutes, or perhaps none at all. (Anyone can say, "I'm a counsellor.") Specialty therapists usually have some kind of accreditation (e.g. art, music, play therapy). People with a Master's degree in social work usually have training in counselling techniques. Clergy may have a range of training relating to family and youth concerns. Teachers have training in child development, as do child care workers or preschool educators. Remember: the quality of training varies widely. Not every professional has expertise with children and young people.

Like a heavy pack, sometimes life's burdens just get too much.

2. Advise the Youth to Consult a Professional.

Tell the Cub or Scout to seek aid from a trained counsellor, and offer to help find someone. (This may include talking with a parent or guardian to help them find the right person.)

3. Report Abuse to Authorities.

If a child or teen is being abused and is currently at risk, then by law you must report it to appropriate authorities (e.g. police, children's aid). In most cases it's preferable to encourage the youth member to report the problem. You may offer to be with the youth while he or she is making the call.

If the person doesn't feel comfortable calling, or if the child is too young, you can make the phone call with them present. In the least desirable case, you would report the abuse on your own.

Whatever you choose to do, advise the child what you are doing and why.

The person might not be happy with your action, but tell them that the law requires you to report it, and this is the only thing you know you can do to help them. (You might remind them that they trusted you enough to share the problem in the first place, so they should trust your plan of action now.)

Awkward Situations

Sometimes young people catch us off guard with their candour and openness. In many circumstances, we can misinterpret their words. Following are some 'more common' situations.

1. "Scouter, I wish you were my father (or mother)."

Have you ever heard this statement? The first time a Scout said this to me, I wanted to run and hide. How should you respond to it?

Understand what the Scout is saying: I like you and trust you. The Scout isn't necessarily saying that he doesn't



Life can be a confusing, chaotic traffic jam of emotions. Be willing to listen, listen, listen.

Photo: Wayne Barrett

Photo: Allen MacCainey

want his parents. In reply, you could say: "I appreciate that you like me and that you trust me. I can't be your parent, but I can — and will — be your Scouter."

2. "I have a crush on you."

Kids often get crushes. It's natural. They'll get crushes on anyone they admire. (Did you have a crush on your grade one teacher?) With younger children, a crush doesn't often develop into a problem; the child will just hover around and seek attention. However, a crush involving an adolescent can avalanche into a difficult situation. If a Scout or Venturer tells you about her feelings, or if the crush is obvious to you in other ways, speak firmly, but gently as you let her down. Be flattered by the compliment, but let the youth know your position.

3. "My uncle killed himself."

Sometimes a child will share a real hurting problem, or one that might affect the youth in dangerous ways. If someone shares a deep hurt, let the child talk as much as he or she might want. This could possibly mean that you'll have to get another Scouter to run a game while you spend caring time with the youth member. Don't hesitate to seek advice from a professional if you feel over your head.

4. "My mom has a boyfriend and my dad doesn't know."

Occasionally a youth will share some shocking, personal information with

you; it might even involve drugs (e.g. "I got caught doing drugs at school"). Your initial reaction might be one of surprise, disappointment or disgust, but try not to overreact. Make sure you don't blame anyone or say anything nasty. If Cubs or Scouts share this type of information with you, perhaps all they want is to talk it out with someone they trust. One of the most helpful questions is often: "How do you feel about that?"


"Scouter, can you listen?"

It's impossible to predict all the scenarios you'll face as a section leader.

Unique circumstances will arise unexpectedly. When they do, use common sense, and be available for those who just need to talk with a sympathetic adult. If in doubt, consult a professional.

When someone comes to you and says, "Scouter, can we talk?" they really mean, "Scouter, can you listen?"

Well, can you listen?

Sure! Listening isn't so difficult. And it doesn't require years of professional training. 

— Michael Lee Zwiers is a child psychologist and Scouter from Alberta.



Photo: Allen Macatney



SCOUTING'S MISSION STATEMENT



To contribute to the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potential as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities through the application of our Principles and Practices.

And the Survey Says...

by Andy McLaughlin

"I enjoy receiving the Leader. It's a great resource!"

"Keep it coming."

"Great Stuff — keep it up!"

These are a few comments Scouters made during the **Leader's** recent readership survey. Last spring we interviewed 339 readers randomly chosen from across the country. Wanting to hear what you think of the magazine, to improve its content and design, we asked for your suggestions. The survey also included a section on technology; we learned how many readers have computers and Internet access, and what electronic program resources you want.

A World of Experience

The survey's respondents represent a diversity of Scouting experience and background. Most are Beaver, Cub or Scout leaders, but we also talked to Venturer and Rover advisors, group committee members, and council volunteers. We surveyed grizzled veterans and raw rookies; the experience of those surveyed range from 6 months to 35 years!

The Results

The survey showed that readers continue to value the magazine as a program resource. Seventy-eight per cent said they read all or most of the magazine each month; a whopping 90 per cent said they saved their copies for future reference.

When asked what they like most about the magazine, almost everybody identified program-related activities. "Program ideas", "other groups' activities", and "craft ideas" were popular answers from readers.

Over 90 per cent of respondents could tell us something they "like most" about the **Leader**, while only one in three respondents could think of something they "like least."

Take a Bow

Our contributors deserve all the credit for this positive feedback. The vast majority of program ideas and

articles in the **Leader** come from volunteers like you. Your conscientious efforts to send us your best field-tested ideas are important, and help section leaders provide more innovative and exciting programs.

"More Scout Stuff"

Some people suggested ways to improve the magazine. Of those who iden-



If you're fishing for great ideas, read the Leader!

tified something they "like least" about the **Leader**, nearly one third said there isn't enough program material from their section level. Not surprisingly, many of these thoughts came from Scout, Venturer and Rover leaders.

Over the past few years we've worked to include more material for older age groups, particularly in the feature (front) section of the magazine. We'll continue to do our best to ensure all sections are represented. Remember: virtually any program idea you see can be adapted for a different section.

Some Scouting members consider the magazine is too "Ontario-centred," and doesn't have enough information or photos from other parts of the country. In fact, our contributors come from all over Canada. You can help us include more material from your province by sending us your program ideas. You could also enter our photo contest, and win valuable prizes from Supply Services. (See the October issue for

details.) All photos entered in the contest could appear in future issues of the **Leader**.

Information Highway

Many of the survey respondents are computer literate. Over 50 per cent reported having a home computer with a CD-ROM drive, while over 40 per cent have Internet access at home and/or at work. Those with Internet access spend an average of five hours a week surfing the net.

Several readers commented that Scouts Canada and the **Leader** should put more program material on the Scouts Canada web site (www.scouts.ca). Almost 70 per cent of all readers surveyed wanted existing program resources provided on CD-ROM or the Internet.

Scouts Canada continues to make improvements to its official web site. Check out www.scouts.ca to learn the latest on the new Scout, Venturer and Rover programs. Visit the **Leader** web page where you can read selected articles from the current issue, find out what's coming next month, and look for a story on our searchable index for Volume 26 (Volume 27 is coming soon).

We're working to produce a CD-ROM containing **Leader** back issues (with a searchable index); Scouts Canada is thinking about providing other program resources on this medium, too.

The Road Doesn't End Here

Our latest readership survey represents just one step in the ongoing process of serving our readers better. In the future, **Leader** staff will conduct focus groups and visit Scouter's Clubs and conferences to ensure the magazine continues to meet your needs. But don't wait for the next readership survey to offer your comments, thoughts or suggestions. Write, phone, fax, or e-mail them to us today! It's your magazine. X

Photo: Thanks to Mylas Yanni

Great Crafts

for December

by Laureen Duquette

WITH THE FLUTTER OF THE FIRST SNOWFLAKE ON A GREY NOVEMBER DAY, December's coming magic is beginning to stir the air. It's a time of optimism, not only for Christians who celebrate the birth of Christ, and Jews who remember the rededi-

cation of the temple in Jerusalem, but for all who value the brotherhood of man. We celebrate the spirit of the season through gift-giving, ornaments and crafts. It's easy to transform tubes, cones and boxes into delightful decorations and gifts. Your group is sure to enjoy these ideas.

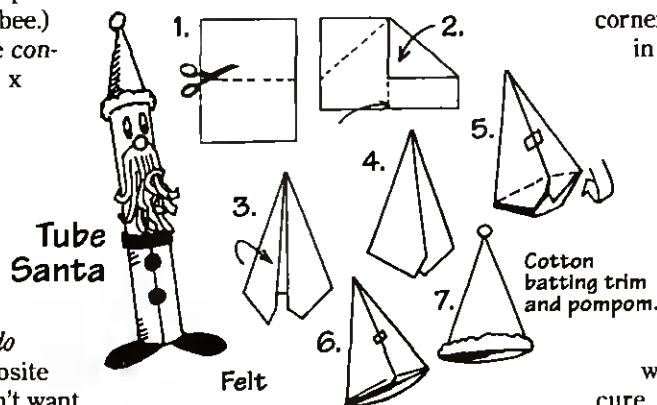
Tube Santa

Santa embodies the good cheer of Christmas. His jolly figure brings a smile to most faces and kindles thoughts of friendship and giving. Here's a funny Santa that your Beavers and Cubs will love. (You can adapt this pattern to make a Judah Maccabee.)

Cut a piece of pink or white construction paper about 10 cm x 16 cm. Wrap it around one end of a paper towel tube. Glue in place. Cut a piece of red construction paper the same width, and about 22 cm high. Wrap it around and glue it to the opposite end of the tube. Make sure the seams for the red and pink (or white) papers *do not* match up, but are on opposite sides of Santa's body. (You don't want Santa's face to have a seam on it, but you *do* want a red seam running down the front of his coat.) The red paper should overlap the pink so the tube doesn't show.

Cut the buttons and belt from black felt (or construction paper). Glue them to Santa's coat. For the feet, cut two large ovals approximately 5 cm by 7.5 cm from a double thickness of felt. Glue one end of each to the inside of the

tube's bottom. Cut a pair of half ovals from white construction paper, and glue them below the belt on either side of the tube to suggest mittens. Next, use markers to draw two large eyes halfway down Santa's face.



Make Santa's beard by cutting a piece of white construction paper about 5 cm x 17 cm. Cut fringes up its length, leaving about 1 cm untouched at the top to prevent tearing. Curl by running the scissor blade gently along the length of each strip. Glue the beard just below Santa's eyes, and top it off with a button nose made from a crushed scrap of pink or red tissue paper.

Santa needs a toque. Make it by creating a cone from a 11 cm x 30 cm piece of red construction paper as follows:

- Fold from left to right, and crease to mark the centre.
- Unfold. Now fold the outer top corners inward to bring the top folds in line with the centre to make a triangle. (See diagram) Fold both sides in again, letting one side overlap the other for stability. Note: For best results, press down firmly on all folds.

- Bend the peak over. Tuck the point at the wide end of the cone up inside the hat. Glue or tape, where needed, to make it secure. Finally, add a cotton batting trim and pompom, and tape the hat onto Santa's head.

Cone Angel

Trace two sized circles (a dinner and luncheon plate will do as patterns) onto two contrasting sheets of paper. You might use heavy construction paper for the larger, and a metallic or patterned Christmas wrap for the smaller. Fold both circles in half, and half again

to form two cones. Fit the small one over the larger, then glue together.

Make a knot at one end of a half length of yellow chenille. Bring the other end up from the underside of the cone through the centre of a wooden face bead (available at craft stores). Secure the head by bending the end of the chenille.

Fold two contrasting sheets of paper in half, one slightly larger than the other. On the smaller sheet (using the fold as centre) draw and cut a pair of wings. On the larger, use the first pair as a pattern to trace around and cut, leaving a small margin. Glue the smaller pair to the larger, lining them up at the fold. Glue the wings to the angel's back.

Holiday Tree

Fold a rectangular sheet of green construction paper (i.e. 22 cm x 30, or 11 cm x 15 cm) in half lengthwise. Use a ruler to draw a line from the tip of the fold to the outside bottom corner of the paper. Cut along the line to create a triangle. Now make four to six more triangles.

Glue the left sides of one "V" to the right side of another until you come full circle. (See diagram) Connect the last triangle to the remaining free side of the first.

Draw and cut a star from a piece of yellow construction paper. Tape it to the top half of a toothpick, then run glue down the stick and slide it into the tiny opening at the top of the tree.

Decorate the tree as you like. This method also works well to make other symmetrical shapes, such as a bell.

Hanging Star of David

Draw two equal sided triangles: one inverted over the other on a piece of lightweight bristol board. (See diagram) Cut out. Use these as a pattern to make three more stars from the cardboard. Score along the centres so they will bend easily.



Join the stars together as you did for the holiday tree: gluing the back of the left side of one star to the back of the right side of another until you have joined the last star to the first. Press down on the finished star to flatten it slightly.

Cover with foil, or apply glue and sprinkle with glitter. You may wish to outline the star with yarn. Finally, punch a hole in the top and tie on a piece of ribbon for hanging.

Winter Village Scene

Architects in your group will enjoy making these buildings. Why not build an entire village; sprinkle craft snow around the houses to add to the realism.

Start by sketching a pattern on lightweight cardboard. Draw a rectangle equal to the length and width of the building. Add sides by extending all lines to the desired height of the building. To make a peaked roof, find the centre of the two end pieces and lightly draw a line from the top to the desired height of the gable. Extend the side rectangles by a height equal to the measure of the slant on the gable, then add another quarter of an inch or so for a seam.

Moving in one direction, add a 1/2 cm seam to all sides to allow for gluing. Using an exacto knife, lightly score all folding lines. (See diagram)

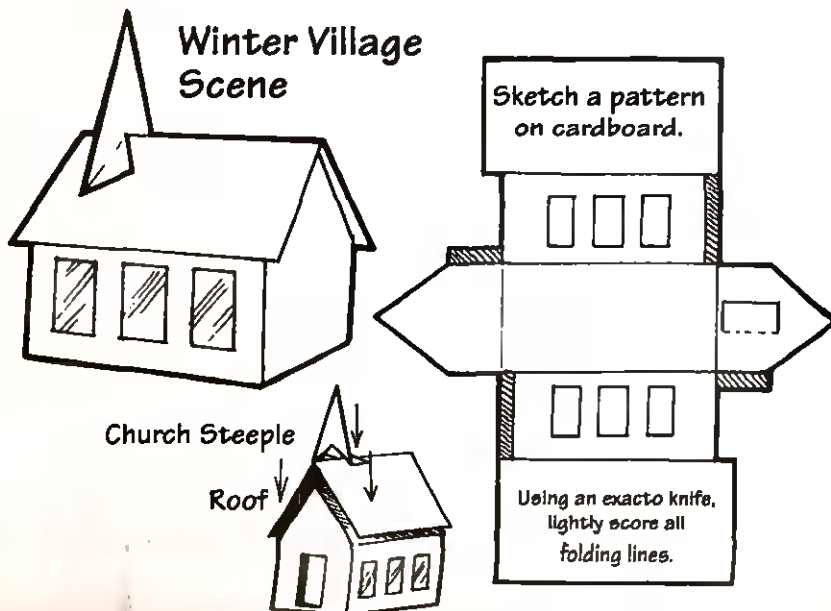
Cut out a door and windows. You can suggest the "feel" of a stained glass window or lights in a home by gluing coloured cellophane or tissue paper to the inside. For a Hanukkah decoration, draw a menorah to put in the window of a house.

To make a church steeple, draw and cut out a triangle. Make a cut in the centre of the triangle, then bend back the two resulting flaps. Glue to the roof. A chimney can be made from a rectangular pattern or simply by cutting a red rectangle and gluing to the roof.

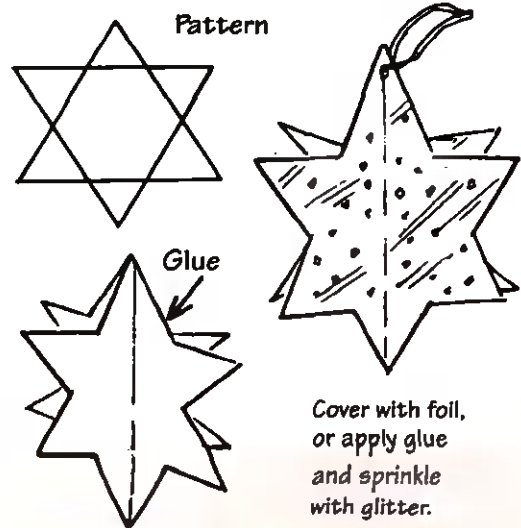
Want to make a pioneer village? Simply use white glue to cover your buildings with craft matchsticks.

Your group will enjoy making these geometric projects. They make great seasonal decorations. X

— When Laureen Duquette isn't making creative crafts, she's in charge of the *Leader Magazine's* circulation and advertising.



Hanging Star of David



Give Wings to Your Religion in Life Camp!

by David Partridge

CAN YOU HAVE FUN Learning your Religion in Life Award?

Absolutely!

Last year our pack joined with members of the Guiding Movement for a weekend camp to work on our Religion in Life Awards. The fun started immediately and continued all weekend as we fulfilled the Anglican Church's requirements. By Sunday afternoon several Cubs said, "When can we do this again? It was one of the best camps ever!"

Charting a Course

Planning began months before when we spoke to our pack's spiritual advisor. The camp had three fundamental goals:

- earn Religion in Life Awards,
- help our youth deepen their friendships, and
- have a lot of fun.

We decided to begin on Friday night for those working on senior levels of the award, and Saturday morning for younger members. Everyone slept over at the church to add to the excitement.

Monkish Code Breakers

But how do you make a Religion in Life program exciting?

Just ask yourself, "What do Cubs and Scouts really enjoy?" The answer: puzzles, active games, art, codes, and crafts. We simply built the weekend around these "sure-bet" program ideas.

We taught the Lord's Prayer by making up a word search puzzle. It's easy. On graph paper, mark out an area with

10-12 small squares across and down. Now make up a list of as many words as possible found in the Prayer, then write them in the squares. Overlap some words. Fill in any blank puzzle spaces with random letters. Now just photocopy the paper so each member has a copy. After everyone has found the words, discuss each one in the context of the Religion in Life Award.

Apostle's Creed

When we learned the Apostle's Creed, we compared it to the Cub and Scout Laws, Promises and Mottos. We then "put together our faith" by building a puzzle of the words found in the Creed. You can do this in several ways.

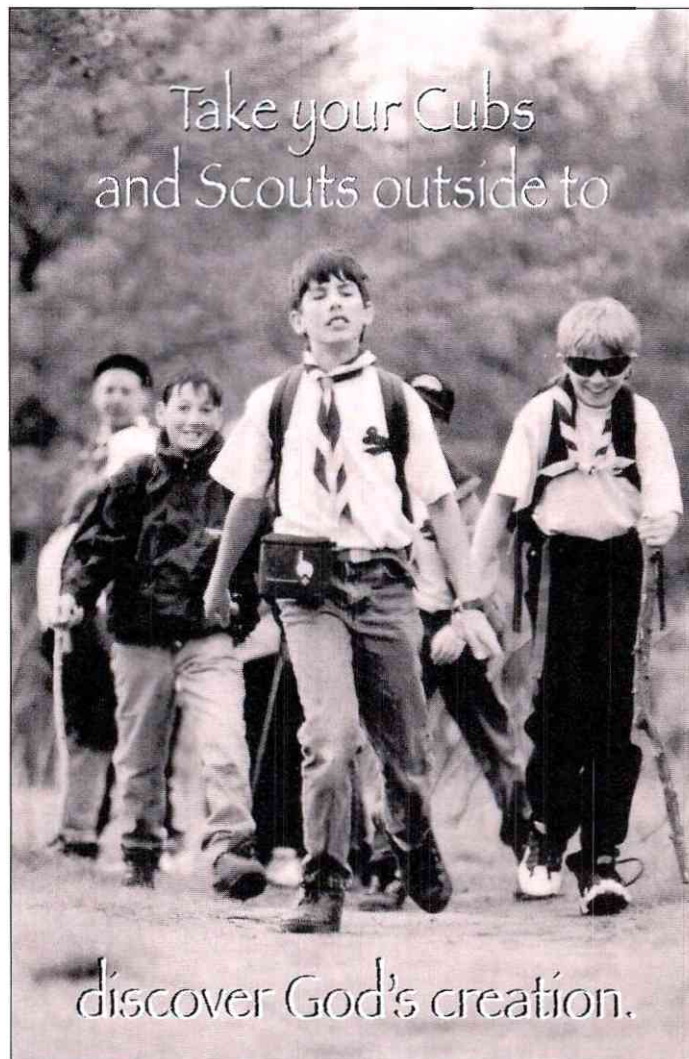
1. Write the words of the Creed out on 15-18 business cards — several words per card. Now mix the cards up. Break up into small groups of two or three and race against time to see which group can assemble the cards in the right order in the fastest time. Let a Cub hold a stopwatch and be the official timekeeper.

When all groups have had several turns to assemble the puzzle in the right order, make the groups larger and get them work together to help each other. What's the goal? If a team assembles the words correctly in 30 seconds, then *everyone* gets a donut.

2. Another popular method involves writing the words of the Creed out on a large piece of corrugated cardboard. (Let your Cubs decorate the sides with bright colours and images described in the Creed.) Now, take an exacto knife and cut the cardboard up into many different pieces. Once more, working in small groups, your Cubs and Scouts must put together the puzzle in the fastest time.

Tales and Limericks

Young people love stories. We told many during the weekend, drawing on biblical parables. Try to put the stories in a 20th century context. You could also get your Cubs and Scouts to put a story into limerick or rhyme form.



You could also get your group to pass the Lord's Prayer to others using various codes and ciphers. See the spy article in the October issue ("Top Secret: For Your Eyes Only," pp.8-10) for several secret code and invisible ink recipes.

How?

Start with the Prodigal Son story. In it a son leaves home, lives a life of debauchery for some time, then returns to his family wondering how he'll be received. Seeing that he's learned from his mistake, his father accepts him back gladly. This story could be retold in terms of drug abuse or problems with petty crime. Seek to show how God's affection is both practical and highly personal.

Playacting is also very popular. Stories of the Good Samaritan, the raising of Lazarus, Jonah and the Whale, and King David fighting Goliath are action-packed adventures that teach excellent messages. Dress up in costumes, make props (tie this into craft activities), and discuss the reoccurring theme: God is with His people, helping and guiding them. He *wants* and *longs* to be a part of our lives.

Seed Planters

When telling the parable of the Sower (Mark 4:1-20) we got everyone into the act by actually going out and planting seeds. This proved a creative way to describe exactly what difficulties a farmer faces when planting seeds. Your group might scatter grass seed, plant tulips or crocuses in pots, or even plant seedlings.

Church Orienteering

Everyone liked this activity. Using compasses and following various bearings, we explored all over the church and its outside grounds. The orienteering course included an explanation of many places we visited, including the pulpit, altar, lectern, baptismal font, and stained glass windows. The course also fulfilled other badge requirements, too. What a terrific activity for working off excess energy.

Cooperation Games

Games played a big role throughout the camp. We stressed ones that helped build communication skills and teamwork. (*Games... From A to Z*, available in Scout Shops, is an excellent resource.)

"Saints and sinners" (crows and cranes) was an all-time favourite. Divide your group into two, separated by 1.5

metres. One team is the "saints"; the other is the "sinners." Call out one of these names. (Add to the suspense by dragging out the "ssss....") The team whose name is called must turn around and run to a wall or line behind them before a member of the other team tags them. Tagged members join the opposing team.

Crafty Ideas

Friendship sticks tied closely into our theme. (For instructions on how to make them, see the August/September issue, p.5.) You could also make popsicle stick photograph frames, noise-makers, kites, or playacting props. Ask your group for ideas before the camp.

Instructional Eucharist

Our parish priest, Reverend Rob Park, led us all through a Eucharist. This was both educational and moving. He explained everything about the traditions and history, and why it was

Benedictine Breakfast

On Sunday morning we participated in a Benedictine breakfast where we dressed up like monks, served others, and ate in silent contemplation. (Some Cubs and Scouts found this a greater challenge than others!)

Centre your Camp around "sure-bet" program ideas.

After cleaning up, the group dressed in our uniforms and prepared for church. Entering the sanctuary, we paraded down the aisle with bright flags flying, considerably more knowledgeable than only days before.

Go ahead! Plan your own weekend camp. You don't have to be super-religious to learn about God, and deepen your spiritual understanding. Besides, it also makes a terrific linking event for your group. ^

— Akela David Partridge works with angelic youth members of the 10th Burlington Cub Pack, ON.

Program Links

Cubs: Black Star, Tawny Star, Entertainer Badge, Gardener Badge, Camping Badge.
Scouts: Entertainer Badge, Citizen Achievement Badge.

WORDS TO LIVE BY

Build these sayings into your puzzles, codes and ciphers. They might spark discussion.

Only a life lived for others is worth living.

— ALBERT EINSTEIN

And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.

— MICAH (HEBREW PROPHET)

Let a good person do good deeds with the same zeal that an evil person does bad ones.

— SHALOM ROKEACH

A person who seeks help for a friend, while needy himself, will be answered first.

— THE TALMUD

We realize that what we are accomplishing is a drop in the ocean. But if this drop were not in the ocean, it would be missed.

— MOTHER TERESA

Good will is the best charity.

— YIDDISH PROVERB

Fun at the Pond

by Lena Wong



Long evenings and short days are with us again.

It's time to get out the idea books and plan some interesting activities for the months ahead. Remember to make as much use of the library as you can, both as a field trip experience for your Beavers and as a resource centre. Make storytelling and singing part of your winter activities as well.

Years ago, Kay Warren wrote this "Fun at the Pond" column. Here's a song (tune: "The More We Get Together") she suggested in her November 1983 article. You can find it and more great ideas in the outstanding book, *Best of the Leader Fun At the Pond: the First Twelve Years*. It's full of great program ideas for Beavers.

The more we get together
In Beavers, in Beavers
The more we get together,
The happier we'll be.

For Beavers make good friends
And Beavers, they share things;
The more we get together,
The happier we'll be.

The Beavers do ceremonies,
Both opening and closing;
The more we get together,
The happier we'll be.

The leader calls, "River banks",
Then joining hands, we build the dam;
The more we get together,
The happier we'll be.

We all feed the beaver
As Hawkeye calls out our name;
The more we get together,
The happier we'll be.

We all share in story time,
In craft and play time;
The more we get together,
The happier we'll be.

Living Nature

Plan indoor and outdoor activities with a nature theme. Beavers will love this. Augment your meeting activities with weekend nature trips where possible. These examples will get things started.

Begin by reading some books about animals and how they live in their natural environment. Read about animals that particularly interest your Beavers. Make sure you mix stories with factual information for variety. After the reading session, give your Beavers art materials and ask them to draw and colour the animals. A mural would make a nice meeting room decoration.

As the children are drawing, talk about domestic animals. What do we get from cows? Pigs? Chickens? What different kinds of foods are made from meat products? Talk about how important the protein and other nutrients in these products are to healthy growth.

Switch the discussion to include pets. What kinds of animals do we keep as pets? What do we get from our pets? What do we give to our pets? Is it wise to keep pets like boa constrictors, large cats, exotic birds and other unusual pets?

Organize a "stuffed animals meeting" by asking your Beavers to bring their favourite stuffed critters to the pond. Years ago, teddy bears would have outnumbered all other animals, but not today with the wide variety available.

Play a "creatures" game. Beavers should pick an animal, bird or fish they want to portray, then move around the room imitating their creature. Let your children make appropriate animal sounds too. Birds swoop around the room, chirping; bears lumber about looking for berries and roaring their displeasure; lions stalk around the furniture uttering gentle purrs; whales swim and jump, making clicking noises; fish glide through the room observing everything around them and keeping very quiet.



Let the Beavers use their imaginations and even change their animal choice for variety.

Ice Safety

Spend time discussing changes taking place outdoors at this time of year. Has it started snowing in your area yet? Are lakes and rivers covered with ice? Is the ice safe? Talk about ice safety.

Walking on Ice Floes

Play this game to re-enforce the importance of being very careful around ice. Draw a "river" down the length of the room by chalking two lines about two metres apart; use masking tape if necessary. Line your Beavers up at three or four points along the way. Give each group two halves of a newspaper page (ice floes). The Beavers place the paper on the "river" and cross by stepping first on one ice floe and then sliding the other forward carefully with their free foot. Continue in this manner changing weight from one foot to the other. The object is to cross the "river" without falling off the ice floes. Those who fall off must stand still (they're frozen) for the rest of the game, while the others manoeuvre around them. Play the game several times.

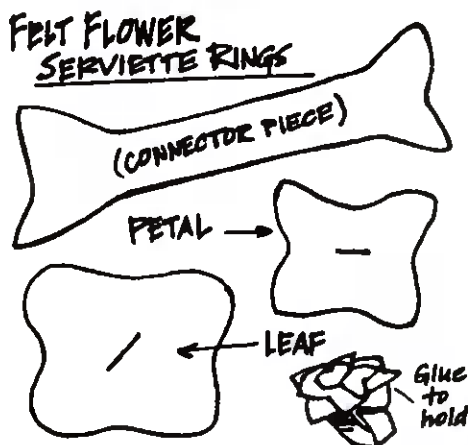
End the activity by talking about the dangers of falling into freezing water, and how important it is to stay off the ice until it is frozen solid.

Holiday Season!

It's time to make some early preparations for the fast-approaching holiday season. Here are gift ideas from Scouter Dave Dory of Montreal.

Felt Flower Serviette Rings

This craft requires some preparation by adults prior to assembly. Enlarge the templates to approximately 7 cm² (3 sq. inches) for the leaf shapes and 5 cm² (2½ sq inches) for the flower shape. The bone shaped bar measures 18 cm (7½") in length, 3 cm (1½") at the narrow centre and 5½ cm (2½") at the ends. Glue a copy of the template onto the back of #80 sandpaper and cut out the actual templates the Beavers will use.



The Beavers place the templates on felt and trace around them to make the flower and leaf patterns. (The sandpaper templates will not slip on the felt.) Cut the felt shapes. Assemble a serviette ring by pulling the bone-shaped piece through the hole in the middle of the petal in the same colour (red or yellow), pull on a green leaf shape, and complete the ring by passing the other end of the bar through the holes in the leaf and petal shapes. Hold each of the eight petals down with a small dab of glue. Really adventurous Beavers might like to make a set of these serviette rings.

Holiday Calendar

Three holidays coincide with each other this year. Hanukkah starts on December 24, Christmas is December 25 and Kwanza starts on December 26. In addition, other cultural groups celebrate their holidays at some time through December. Find out what holidays your Beavers celebrate and custom-fit these calendars appropriately. Since many celebrations in December are referred to as "festivals of light", and most use candles as a central object, we'll use candles for this craft.

Each Beaver needs a long, fairly narrow piece of bristol board. A full sheet cut in three along the length will provide for three Beavers. Draw a garland of pine branches along the bottom of the "calendar", then draw a candle for each day in December leading up to the celebration (24 for Hanukkah, 25 for Christmas and 26 for Kwanza). Candles should come out of the garland. Don't draw flames on the candles. Colour the candles in festive holiday colours. Encourage your Beavers to decorate above and around the candles as they wish; use small stickers for extra fun.

Beginning at one, number each candle. Now the calendars are ready for your Beavers to take calendars home to hang up. Starting on December 1, they draw and colour a flame on a candle until all candles are "lit" on first day of the holiday.

November's a great month filled with anticipation and excitement. Enjoy your program. ^



"Let's Make Tracks!"

by Ross Francis

FALL IS A VERY BUSY TIME FOR ANIMALS as they prepare for the long winter months. Because of this increased activity, fall is also an excellent time for Beavers, Cubs and Scouts to build their plaster cast collection of animal footprints.

It can be difficult to find busy animal trails where the tracks are good and firm, undisturbed by wind, rain or other animals. Here's a tip how to improve your chances of getting good, clear prints. Start by looking along the edge of rivers, streams and lakes. Animals come here several times a day to drink.

Once you've found a busy trail that's fairly easy to get to, you're ready to start gathering the imprint materials.

Step this Way

You'll need a few bags of fine sand, some rope and a large tarp or piece of plastic.

Spread your sand along a section of trail in a strip one to five metres long, the full width of the path. The sand should be 7 cm (3") deep. The larger the area you cover with sand the more prints you're likely to get. Make the top surface of the sand very smooth and fairly hard.

Next, cover the entire section of trail that you've just sanded, with your tarp. Tie the tarp off securely so the edges are low enough to the ground to protect the prints from wind and rain, but still high enough to allow room for animals to pass under. Check your trail regularly and make your plaster casts each time you find new tracks. After each visit smooth the sand over and repack it.

Cast in Stone

To make plaster casts, you'll need:

- plaster (used for crack filling or wall repair).
- a zip-lock waterproof bag,
- a mixing bowl,
- a stir stick, and
- a water bottle full of water.

For smaller tracks you'll also need a 15 cm diameter (6") ring cut from a two-litre pop container. Use this as a

collar around the print to contain the plaster for the mold. A cardboard milk carton will work fine for larger prints. Use some clothes pins or paper clips to hold it in position. (See diagram)

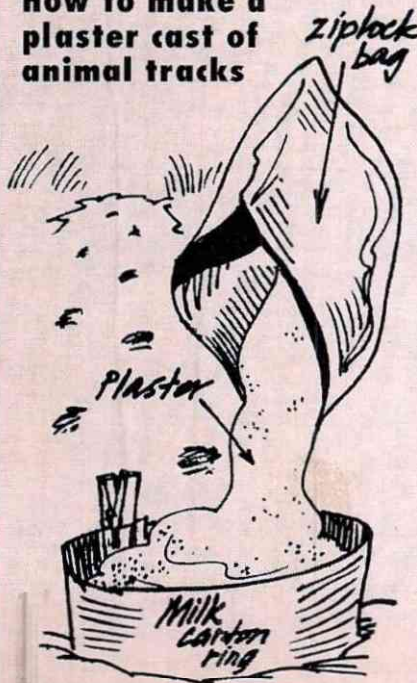
Practise mixing the plaster at home so you'll know approximately how much is needed for a footprint of a raccoon, moose, deer or squirrel.

Another piece of waxed milk carton would be helpful; it could be used to prevent the sand from sticking to the plaster. (The print itself will be compressed enough that it won't be picked up by the plaster, but loose sand around the edges may lift easily.) Simply cut a circle from the milk carton the same diameter as the pop bottle, then lay this piece around the print. Once you've poured the plaster, let it harden before removing it from the collar and the border piece. After taking the print gently from the collar, label each cast, identifying the animal that made it, the date and location.

Monitor your animal trail every day if possible. The tracks can tell quite a fascinating story.

How many of the tracks below can you recognize?

How to make a plaster cast of animal tracks



Can your group recognize these tracks?



A. Beaver, B. Black Bear, E. Deer
C. Wolf, D. Porcupine

Motivational Strokes

by Ian Mitchell

HAVE YOU EVER NOTICED that Venturers sometimes find it hard to plan for future events?

One method to help them focus attention on an upcoming trip is to have them build something they'll need during the activity. If your Venturers are anticipating a canoe trip next spring or summer, why not get them to make a paddle now? It'll spur them on to better trip planning.

These paddles are inexpensive, easy to make, and will certainly keep your company members focused on their long range plan.

Important Details

Start by cutting out a series of hardwood and softwood strips 28" long, and about $\frac{3}{4}$ " thick by $1\frac{1}{8}$ " wide. The shaft will be made of hardwood, $1\frac{1}{8}$ " by $1\frac{1}{8}$ " wide, and 55-60" long. "Dry fit" all the pieces together with clamps to ensure no gaps will appear after they are glued. If everything looks good, apply an epoxy cement to the pieces and clamp them together again. Use a slow curing epoxy that comes in two parts. Never use five-minute epoxy. Watch carefully that no wood pieces slip out; if any do, the paddle edge will be uneven.

While the epoxy is curing, make a cardboard template outline of the blade and handle grip. A half pattern traced on one side of the paddle, then turned over and traced on the other side, will ensure symmetrical results. (Instead you might choose to trace the outline

of a favourite paddle.) When the glue has cured and the wood is ready for further work, draw the outline of your paddle on the glued wood. Cut it out using a band or jig saw.

Before starting to shape your paddle, draw a line all around the *centre outside edge* of the wood. (See diagram) Use this line as a reference to ensure you keep the proper wood thickness on all sides. This line must remain on the paddle until the final sanding.

Tools of the Trade

When you begin shaping your paddle, keep a finished paddle nearby as a three-dimensional reference. Take your time; be patient. Careful work will ensure a symmetrical work of art.

A short, hand plane will make getting started easier, but a straight spokeshave will be your chief tool. The spokeshave allows for a lot of control; it will remove wood quickly. A $\frac{1}{2}$ " router rounding bit is helpful to shape corners of the handle shaft. If you want to custom fit your handle,

the front wheel of a belt sander (with an 80 grit belt) is excellent for hollowing out finger grooves.

Finishing Touches

After you have a well-shaped paddle, it's time for sanding. Once you've completed the sanding, you might want to add designs using an electric wood-burning tool.

How?

Trace your chosen design on a piece of tracing paper. Put the paper on the paddle blade and trace over the design with the woodburning tool. Presto! The image is now transferred onto the paddle.

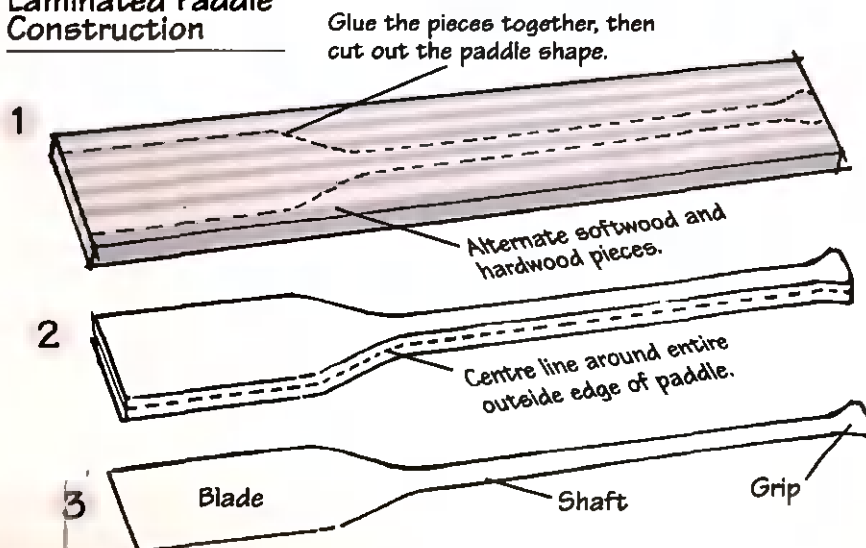
Now, apply 6 oz fibreglass cloth and two coats of clear epoxy resin to the blade. The cloth (which becomes invisible and smooth when coated) will add strength without compromising weight or appearance.

To finish, brush on three coats of exterior grade spar varnish over the entire paddle. Sand lightly between coats.

More than Just a Paddle

Paddle making will give Venturers more than just a new paddle. Finishing the project will give them a sense of pride; it will broaden their horizons (perhaps they had never worked with wood on a serious project before); it will also help them focus on the planning phase of upcoming events. Δ

Laminated Paddle Construction



DID THIS PROJECT MAKE A BIG SPLASH?

Did your Venturers like building their paddles? Was it useful, and did they grow personally through it?

Tell us about it. What similar projects could we suggest that would make excellent program ideas? If you have one, send it to Ian Mitchell at P.O. Box 5151, Stn. LCD-Merivale, Ottawa, ON, K2C 3G7.

Editor's Note

Keep an eye out for our upcoming feature piece on paddle making in our January 1998 **Leader**.

Great Program Activities: Take Your Pick

by Ian Mitchell

I FOUND THESE GREAT PROGRAMS in my "Bright Lights" file. Why not try them out in your troop?

CJ SUMOS

Here's a terrific idea thought up by New Brunswick sub-camp staff at CJ.

Take three inflated inner tubes, and duct tape them together — one on top of the other. Your Scouts must step into the tubes and, holding them up off the ground with their hands, Sumo wrestle an opponent to the ground. What a blast!



BLANKET SLEEPING BAG

For all you survivalists out there, here is a neat way to make a sleeping bag from two blankets. Now you'll be as snug as a bed bug!

1. Fold the first blanket in three layers, then pin down the free edge with large safety pins.
2. Place this folded blanket on half of the second blanket, and bring the bottom up and pin it in place.
3. Fold the other half of the second blanket over the first blanket. Pin the edges down and fold the bottom under.

JUMBO, THE ELEPHANT SKIT

Skits are always welcome whatever the program. This skit will cause a few groans.

Announcer: "We're at the zoo in front of the elephant cage." (He points to a sign that reads: "QUIET — SICK ELEPHANT.")

Zoo keepers: (Walking up and down, and moaning) "What are we going to do? Where is the doctor? Why doesn't he come. Jumbo may die. This is terrible!"

The doctor enters. The zoo keepers grab hold of him. In a pleading voice they say: "You must save him! You must save him!"

Doctor: "I'll try, but Jumbo is very, very sick."

The zoo keepers moan, sob and behave desperately.

Doctor: "I realize you love Jumbo, but don't you think you're overdoing it?"

Keepers: (Sobbing) "Love has nothing to do with it. If Jumbo dies, we're the ones who'll have to bury him."



PEN FRIENDS



Argentina

My name is Lucio Antezana. I'm fifteen and would like to write to any Canadian about Scouting. I find your country fascinating. My address is: Isaac Newton 4084 (1829), Villa Albertina, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Australia

Hi! I'm Cameron Brown. I'm a Cub leader with six disabled youth. I'd love to write to a leader in Canada about Scouting programs. Especially, I'd like to find out about programs aimed at disabled Cubs and Scouts. My address is: P.O. Box 473, Concord West, NSW 2138, Australia.

Britain

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

Canada

My name is Francis Cardinal. I'm fifteen years old and very interested in the Scouting Movement. I'd particularly like to write to youth in Victoria or Vancouver. My address is: 30 Rouge River Road, Harrington, QC, J0V 1B0.

Germany

Christiane Schmidt and friends would like to write to Venturer and Rover aged youth about Scouting activities. Write to her at: Beubergstrasse 3, 83109 Grobkarolinenfeld, Germany.

Ghana

Isaac is a nineteen-year-old Scout who is becoming a leader. He would like to share program ideas and exchange badges. Write to him at: Isaac Osabutey, Tesano Baptist Church, P.O. Box 6776, Accra North, Ghana.

Please Note

The Leader provides the Pen Friends column as a forum to exchange addresses between pen pals. The Leader does not conduct any investigation prior to listing these names and assumes no responsibilities with respect to contacts made.

CUSTOMIZE YOUR COMPOST

Just as chemical fertilizers are designed with varying balances of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium, you can customize your homemade compost to enhance whichever nutrient you lack in your garden soil. Here is a list of products you can add to your composter, along with their nutrient content.

COMPOST CHEMICAL CONTENTS			
	Nitrogen	Phosphorus	Potassium
Beet roots	low	low	high
Bone meal	high	high	low
Coffee grounds	high	low	medium
Corn cobs (ground)	—	—	very high
Eggshells	high	medium	low
Feathers	very high	—	—
Hair	very high	—	—
Lobster shells	very high	high	—
Oak leaves	medium	medium	low
Peanut shells	medium	low	high
Pine needles	low	low	low
Pumpkin flesh	low	low	low
Rhubarb stems	low	low	medium
Seaweed	high	medium	very high

DISH DETERGENT

Next time you're preparing to head out for the weekend, leave the dish detergent at home. Try this recipe instead.

Start by grating 500 mL of hard bar soap. Rub salad oil on your grater before grating. (It'll be easier to clean) You'll also need four litres of water.

Put the soap in a pot, add water and stir. Heat the mixture up — not too quickly — until it boils, stirring occasionally until the soap dissolves. Lower the heat and simmer for 10 minutes, stirring occasionally. Remove from heat and let your home-brewed detergent cool. Store in a tightly covered container until you need to wash dishes. Your dishes will be squeaky-clean.



A PERSONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CODE

The revised Scout program will ask youth to develop their own personal environmental code, and show how they've adhered to it. The example below is from the World Scout Bureau.

- I will respect all living things, for each is a link in the chain that supports life on Earth.
- I will take from nature only what can be replaced, so no species will disappear.
- I will never pollute the air, soil or water.
- I will not buy products of endangered animals, plants or forests.
- I will keep my neighbourhood clean, and will respect the environment wherever I go.
- I will call attention to cases of pollution and any other abuse of nature.
- I will not waste fuel or energy supplies.
- I will set an example of good conservation conduct, and show others why it is important for everyone to do so.
- I will celebrate the beauty and wonder of nature all the days of my life. ^

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Sixers and Seconds Can Make Things Happen!

by Ross Francis

WORKING WITH CUB-AGED CHILDREN IS MUCH EASIER when you divide large groups into several smaller ones. A smaller group lets you devote quality time and attention to each individual. In the end, each Cub will feel he or she has been listened to, has had a chance to participate, and hasn't been lost in the crowd.

Cub packs are divided into smaller working groups called "sixes." A Sixer or Second helps out in each of these.

For identification, each six has a coloured six patch worn on the right sleeve just below the district or region badge. Though some sixes wear the wildlife crest series in place of the six patch, they shouldn't. These are intended as patrol crests in Scouts; Cubs should only put them on campfire blankets, not their uniforms.

Champions Every One

Leaders may either choose the Sixers and Seconds themselves, or allow members of the pack to fill the positions by voting. Usually senior Cubs assume these leadership roles, but in some cases younger or brand new members who have demonstrated leadership qualities and have shown that they can accept responsibility, may be suitable as well.

Often, when the roles and duties of these positions are clearly explained to the pack, along with the importance of selecting the best candidates, the Cubs will choose the same youth as the leaders would.

Sixers and Seconds wear yellow epaulets on their shoulders; the Sixer's epaulette has two green stripes and the second has one green stripe.

These positions generally last for a full year to maintain continuity within the pack. However, some groups change the positions several times a year to give more Cubs a chance to develop leadership skills.

Is this how your pack operates?

If yes, take time to explain to everyone that the current Sixer/Seconds are



Cubbing let's almost everyone develop their leadership skills.

not being demoted or removed for poor performance, but to allow others to have a turn.

Do Your Duty

Sixer and Second duties may involve:

- providing leadership and maintaining discipline in the six,
- leading ceremonies,
- serving on the Sixer Council,
- taking attendance and collecting dues,
- bringing problems in the six to the leader's attention,
- working together to make sure the six is running smoothly,
- phoning members of the six with messages,
- preparing the six for inspection, or opening and closing ceremonies,
- helping introduce White Tail Beavers (when they visit) to the pack's program,
- helping run pack games and getting equipment ready,

- providing a good model for other Cubs in behaviour, actions, uniform, etc.,
- helping other Cubs work on badges or stars.

The list is almost endless, but remember: these are young people aged 8-10 years old. Don't overload them with responsibilities to the point that they aren't enjoying themselves.

The balancing point between responsibility and fun will vary with each Cub. Find out each child's comfort level, and work within that boundary. This will help the Sixer or Second fit well into the position, and they'll probably wish to take on more duties as the year progresses.

Sixer's Council

Each Sixer (and in some packs each Second too) is a member of the Sixer's Council. Several times a month (usually before or after a meeting), this group meets with leaders on its own to discuss pack activities.

Here, they'll also plan future outings or programs, and deal with problems. Representing their six, the Sixers bring ideas or suggestions so the program stays focused and fascinating.

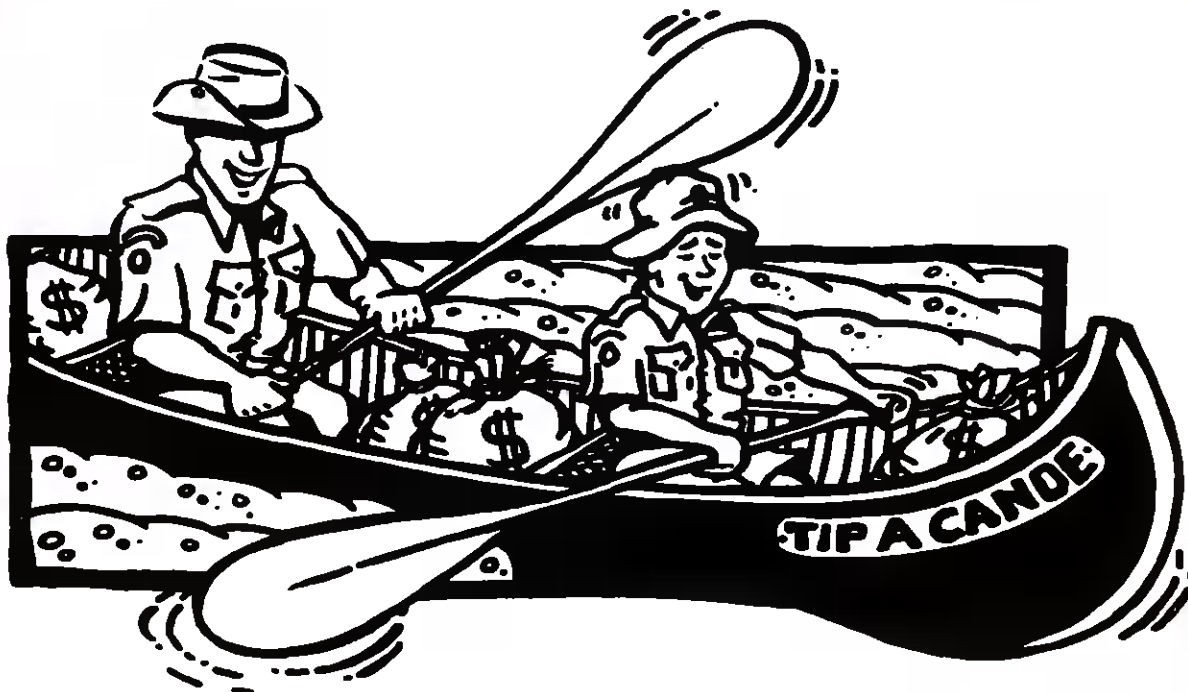
The Sixer's Council provides an opportunity for all members to be involved in planning and organizing the pack. The Council also will help those Sixers or Seconds experiencing difficulties with another member of their group. After discussing the issues, the Council can determine appropriate actions.

Sixers and a Sixer's Council will help leaders run a more exciting program. However, it will also develop leadership skills and give Cubs a taste of responsibility. They'll have ample opportunity to express their interests and custom fit pack activities to their interests.

There's more. Cubs with this leadership training are more likely to move on to Scouts where they'll grow further.

Make sure you give your Cubs these terrific learning opportunities.

Photo: Scouts Canada archives



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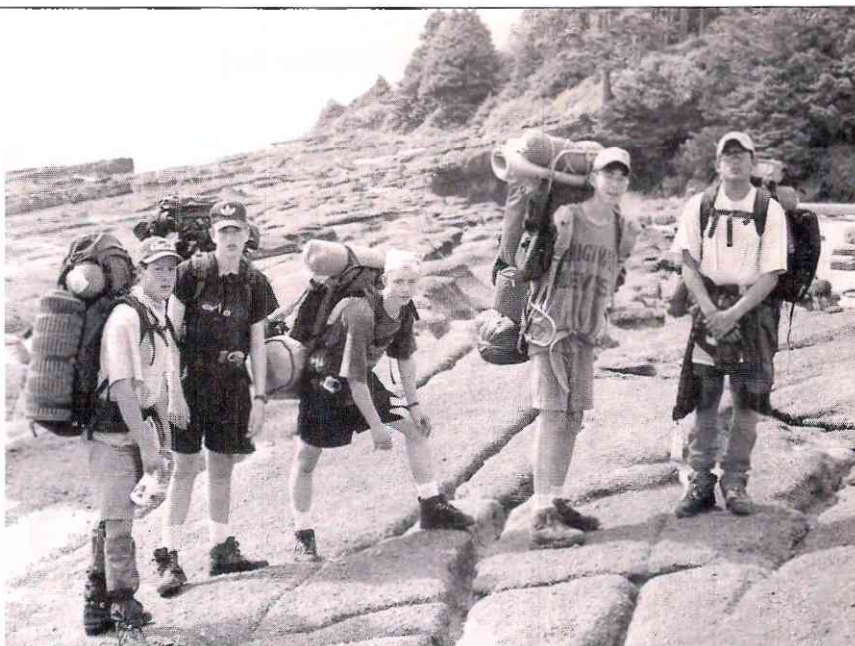
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CROSS-COUNTRY PHOTOS

West Coast Trail Challenge

IN THEIR ALMOST-SUCCESSFUL attempt to win the 1996 Amory Adventure Award, 8th Northview Company "B" Venturers from Burnaby, BC, set out along the spectacularly scenic West Coast Trail. Here, they pick their way over scarred beach rocks. Photo: 8th Northview Venturers.



High-Climbing Scouts

HIKING PLAYS AN IMPORTANT role in the outdoor program of the 1st Alliance Troop, in Alliance, Alberta. During one hike in Mt. Robson Provincial Park, Dennis Thomas, David Gemme, Matthew Fuller, Colin Cameron, David Cameron and Brent Grant found this shallow cave. Photo: Sue Thomas.

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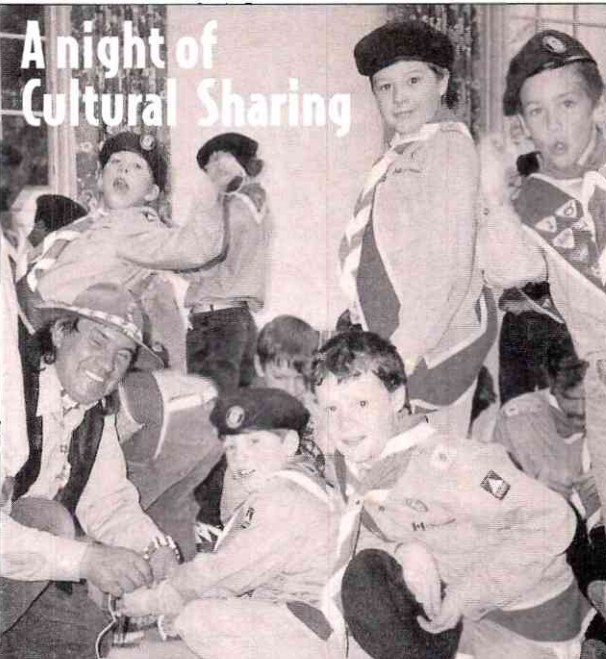
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Night of Cultural Sharing

A black and white photograph of a group of Boy Scouts and their leader. The leader, an older man in a suit and tie, is on the left, smiling and holding a small object. Several scouts are in uniform, including one in the foreground wearing a beret and a sash, and another in the background wearing a beret and a sash. The text "Night of Cultural Sharing" is overlaid on the top left of the image.

"What a great time!" said Jonathan Tigner, describing a native awareness theme night his pack enjoyed last spring. Cubs from the 28th Rideau Park United Church Group in Ottawa invited a native person to help them make crafts, lead at games, and explain his culture. Part of the program even involved dancing and singing. "The Cubs loved it," said Scouter Tigner. "We're definitely going to run this program again."

Scouting youth from Timmins, Ontario, have been collecting shoe boxes, and filling them with Christmas presents for children in developing countries. (This year their goal is 2,000 boxes.) Small toys, school supplies, hygiene items, T-shirts, balls, even stuffed animals are put inside. The project is part of a worldwide Christmas relief effort called Samaritan's Purse; each December it distributes over 800,000 boxes to needy children. Thanks to Marty Peterson. ▲



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SCOUTING AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

by Ben Kruser

Should corporations be concerned with society's health and well-being?

A common business mantra says that making profits and helping the community are mutually exclusive: one is done at the expense of the other. Corporate citizenship is considered an afterthought to the bottom line. However, many corporations now realize the long-term benefits of improving their local community's economic and social well-being.

When approached for help by a charitable organization, companies naturally ask: "What's in it for us?" To help both business and local groups achieve a mutually-beneficial partnership, here are some facts and suggestions to consider.

The 1997 *Cone/Roper Marketing Trends Report* found:

- When price and quality are equal, 76 per cent of consumers say they would likely switch to a brand associated with a good cause; 76 per cent also would switch to a retail store associated with a good cause, if price and quality are equal.
- 58 per cent of consumers say they have a more favourable opinion of companies that help good causes.
- 55 per cent of consumers want businesses to tackle social problems in their own communities, rather than nationally or internationally.
- What are the top issues respondents wanted companies to focus their community efforts on? They were: improving schools (50 per cent), cleaning the environment (40 per cent), sponsoring youth programs (38 per cent).
- Major corporations now have programs that support employee involvement in family and school activities as a means of reducing worker stress and absenteeism.

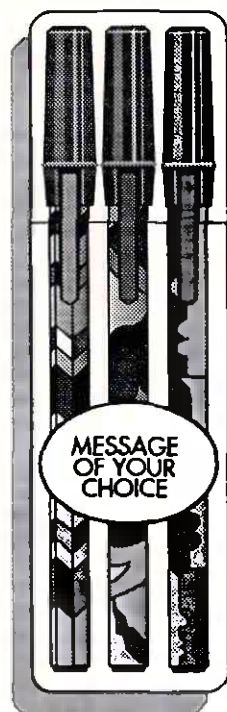
Thoughtful Approaches

How can Scouting use this information? Start by thinking about the implications for your area. Then ask yourself these questions.

- How can the Scouting activity be linked to the company's corporate strategy? Does the company have any stated goals of becoming better corporate citizens or helping the environment?
- Are any leaders employed in the company? Are there any benefits for both them and the company, such as (1) using the Scouting activity to meet citizenship or environmental goals, (2) increasing employee loyalty and recognition, or (3) raising the corporate profile?
- Look for assistance in ways *other* than money. Employee volunteerism can be invaluable when running events, planning projects, improving training and team-building expertise, and using goods and facilities.

The Bottom Line

Employees cannot be fully productive if they are constantly anxious that there aren't enough community activities to keep their kids out of trouble. Nor can corporations expect long-term profitability if a deteriorating community causes good employees to move away. If we can show that Scouting involvement can have a positive impact on a company, business leaders will quickly become significant supporters. A



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◆ Kitchen Food Waste Bags	14.5" x 19.5"	15	\$ 1.50
◆ Kitchen Food Waste Bags	20" x 22"	12	\$ 1.60
◆ Degradable Waste Bags	24" x 30"	10	\$ 2.00
◆ Degradable Waste Bags	30" x 36"	6	\$ 2.50

NOTE: Taxes and freight are not included in the above costs.

- d) Help **preserve our environment** and **save our landfills from toxic waste!**

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- ◆ Individual household orders will be recorded on order pads, transferred to the master order sheet and sent to **SAVE OUR CANADA - 88 Queensbury Bay, Winnipeg MB, CANADA R2N 3E9.**
- ◆ Delivery will be within 4 weeks to the address specified on your master order sheet. All orders in Eastern Canada are FOB - Toronto ON / Western Canada are FOB - Winnipeg MB.
- ◆ Your Group will be invoiced by **SAVE OUR CANADA** at time of delivery. The freight bill from Toronto OR Winnipeg to the shipping address will be added to your invoice.
- ◆ Orders will be shipped in bulk and should be packaged by your Group before delivery to households.
- ◆ Compostable delivery bags with **"Thank You for Your Support"** - printed on the front of each bag - will be supplied for each individual household order.
- ◆ Payments from consumer households will be collected when orders are delivered to them.
- ◆ Payment terms of 14 days after receipt of shipment will be provided to your Group.

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For Service to Scouting

compiled by Cheryl Dinelle

WE ARE PLEASED to announce in this issue the names of people in Scouting who have been recognized for gallantry and service between February 17, 1997 and August 31, 1997.

AWARD FOR FORTITUDE

(for perseverance despite physical or mental impediments)

Maureen Addison, Whitby, ON
Roy Brain, Calgary, AB
Edna Couturier, Vernon, BC
Justin Clark, Norton, NB
Paul Gagne, Spruce Grove, AB
Eugene Guterson, Duncan, BC
David Hammond, South Slokan, BC
Chris Hill, Shakespeare, ON
Kenneth Horn, Moncton, ON
Mark Maidich, Pincourt, QC
Todd Maxwell, Calgary, AB
Elvira Mitchell, Calgary, AB
Melvin Roblee, Fort McMurray, AB
Michael Tompkins, Peterboro, ON

CERTIFICATE FOR GALLANTRY

(for gallantry with slight risk, and worthy of recorded commendation)

Thomas Yeo, Northbrook, ON

CERTIFICATE FOR MERITORIOUS CONDUCT

(for meritorious conduct worthy of recorded commendation)

Crystal Blair, Prince George, BC
Robert Blenkarn, Mallorytown, ON
Jason Geis, Edmonton, AB
Dan Haffey, Prince George, BC
Derek Hann, Calgary, AB
Andrew Jones, Mississauga, ON
Pat Kearns, Prince George, BC
Mike Lapierre, London, ON
Ryan Mansfield, Calgary, AB

Neil Muckle, Courtenay, BC
Christopher Nakamura,
Turner Valley, AB
David Ng, Edmonton, AB
Michael Pest, McGregor, ON
Michael Schultz, Edmonton, AB
Chris Shirley, Whitby, ON
Anthony Tucker, Portugal Cove, NF
Michael Williams, Edmonton, AB

SILVER ACORN

(for especially distinguished service to Scouting)

Russell Bedford, Brockville, ON
Jim Buckley, Port Moody, BC
Virginia Burns, Toronto, ON
Jamie Campbell, Halifax, NS
Glen Cook, Fort Qu'Appelle, SK
John Earley, Pickering, ON
Maggie Easton, Edmonton, AB
Judith Evans, Lynden, ON
Chris Green, Prince Rupert, BC
Arnold Hopper, Hampton, NB
Lynn Johnson, Scarborough, ON
Robert Kelly, Paynton, SK
Lauchlin McKenzie, Dartmouth, NS
Brian Soehner, Elmira, ON
Dalwin Stanford, Calgary, AB
Fred Swirp, Fort Qu'Appelle, SK
Lynn Margaret Varey, Coquitlam, BC

BAR TO MEDAL OF MERIT

(for further especially good service to Scouting)

Roman Babiak, Peace River, AB
Donald Berry, Calgary, AB
Terry Campbell, Maple Ridge, BC
Hugh Chalmers, Calgary, AB
Philip Cowell, Kingsville, ON
Peter Dubeau, Acton, ON
Fred Ford, Peterborough, ON
Fred Foster, Scarborough, ON
Allen Johnson, Peace River, AB
Jay Lydiatt, Calgary, AB
Robert Middleton, Salmo, BC
Edward Mills, Kitchener, ON
George O'Neill, Kitchener, ON
June Peirson, North York, ON

Michael Merheriuk, Summerland, BC
Helene Read, Truro, NS
Gerhard Schroeter, Markham, ON
Ron Somers, Cardigan, PE
Duncan Strachan, Calgary, AB

MEDAL OF MERIT

(for especially good service to Scouting)

Andrew Ackerman, Fort St. John, BC
George Adamson, Waterloo, ON
Marlene Archer, Stratford, ON
Nigel Armstrong, Charlottetown, PE
Adrian Barker, Toronto, ON
Joan Barty, Hamilton, ON
Johan Bergh, Taylor, BC
Linda Bergh, Taylor, BC
Alex Black, Fort St. John, BC
Kenneth Bodell, Edmonton, AB
Carolyn Bradner, Greenfield Park, QC
Brenda Calma, North Waterloo, ON
Kevin Carlson, Kelowna, BC
Richard Chapman, Calgary, AB
Douglas Chaytor, Halifax, NS
Bob Clarke, Stephenville, NF
Jean Clarke, Stephenville, NF
Sylvia Clarke, Edmonton, AB
Ian Clifford, White Rock, BC
Phil Cohen, Lac La Biche, AB
Norman Collins, St. Laurent, QC
Rod Dale-Johnson, Delta, BC
Pat Darling, Pointe Claire, QC
Bob Devos, Norton, NB
Ben Dobranowski, Surrey, BC
Debbie Doherty, Lower Sackville, NS
Myles Doody, Halifax, NS
Kestutis Dubauskas, Calgary, AB
James Fitzsimmons, Dartmouth, NS
Margaret Fix, Lethbridge, AB
Dale Giles, Calgary, AB
Patricia Giles, Calgary, AB
Donald Gleig, Burlington, ON
Lloyd Goldthorp, Vienna, ON
Richard Goth, Bowen Island, BC
Kenneth Hall, Charlie Lake, BC
Randy Haigh, Powell River, BC
Roger Harvey, Nanaimo, BC
Alice Hay, Parksville, BC
George Henderson, Acton, ON
Brian Henry, Waterloo, ON

Dennis Hergott, North Waterloo, ON
 Frances Hopkins, Hamilton, ON
 Anthony Jefferies, Fort St. John, BC
 Jim Kellam, Delta, BC
 Raymond Koivu, Powell River, BC
 Joe Lawrusik, St. Hubert, QC
 Jacqueline Lawr-Ouellette,
 Newmarket, ON
 Donna Lawson, Orillia, ON
 James Lefler, Gilford, ON
 Duncan MacMaster, Lakeside, NS
 Mary Martens, Kamloops, BC
 Donald Mastine, Greenfield Park, QC
 Lynda McAdam, Newmarket, ON
 Thomas McGibbon, Sudbury, ON
 Grace MacLeod, Halifax, NS
 Doreen Miller, Peterborough, ON
 Peter Miller, Kitchener, ON
 Ron Mills, Waterloo, ON
 Richard Mireault, Barrie, ON
 Lorne Moase, Charlottetown, PE
 David Morley, Hamilton, ON
 Bruce Morris, Sechelt, BC
 Charles Murphy, Halifax, NS
 Larry Nettleton, Delta, BC
 David Ormerod, Ajax, ON
 John Oswald, North Waterloo, ON
 Mary Paulson, Prince George, BC
 Robert Pearson, Newmarket, ON

Linda Peckford, Change Islands, NF
 Joan Peters, Kitchener, ON
 Kenneth Pflug, Waterloo, ON
 Gary Pitre, Saint John, NB
 Gayle Potter, Hamilton, ON
 Stephen Power, Lower Sackville, NS
 David Robak, London, ON
 Heather Ross, Waterloo, ON
 Ann Marie Sautiere, Halifax, NS
 Sandy Scott, Toronto, ON
 Paul Shelley, Brampton, ON
 Wilford Smith, Mascouche, QC
 Pamela Straker, Kamloops, BC
 Lorraine Thomas, Lincoln, NB
 Roderick Travis, Amherst, NS
 Teresa Tsui, Delta, BC
 Steve Van Der Leest, Calgary, AB
 Daniel Walker, Niagara Falls, ON
 Wayne Watkin, Port Coquitlam, BC
 Joyce Watson, Coldwater, ON
 Larry A. Webb, Brooklin, ON
 Sidney Wheat, Niagara-on-
 the-Lake, ON
 Arnold Wick, Prince Rupert, BC
 Rod Wiebe, Prince George, BC
 Noreen Wild, Whitby, ON
 Andrew Wilson, Delta, BC
 Louis Wong, Powell River, BC
 Elizabeth Wood, Keswick, ON

CORRECTION

In the
May Leader,
 Wes Sopko's name
 was listed as
William Sopko
 (Certificate for
 Meritorious
 Conduct). We also
 said Sandra Weir
 of Logan Lake, BC,
 came from Hants
 Co., NS, (Medal
 of Merit).

*Sorry for the
 inconvenience.*

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Odds & Ends

by Rob Stewart

Talk to us!

National committee members are always looking for opportunities to hear from Scouters. Not only did CJ'97 provide a week of fun and challenging programs, it allowed for national program committee members to speak to Scouters about section programs, training, servicing, honours and awards, and other important issues. We received excellent feedback to changes in the Scout, Venturer and Rover programs.

The Volunteer Services Committee focused its attention on training and service support. We were particularly interested to hear the opinions of Scouters on our training programs and the role of the service team in helping them deliver quality programs. We heard answers to questions such as: Was the training you received suitable

for the job you do? Were topics covered in enough detail? What sessions should have been added, or excluded, from the schedule? Did the timing and location of your training make it more (or less) accessible for you? How would you improve the training?

The Youth Committee too was busy talking to Scouts and Venturers at the jamboree to get input and reaction to youth decision-making and program design. Committee members informed young members about the growing youth networks in each province. We hope these networks will enhance our ability to get members' input.

Making Your Life Easier

What is our goal? We want to improve existing programs and training regimes to make your life easier and more interesting.

Thanks to your feedback over recent years, Scouting is moving to a competency-based training approach. We're beginning to identify the competencies needed by our volunteers to consistently deliver a program that will attract and retain a growing youth membership.

Of course, only a small percentage of our leaders were at the jamboree, so spread the word! We want to find ways to reach all members and get their feedback. Have advice you'd like passed on to a national committee? Write, fax, or e-mail me, or the specific committee. My address is: National Office, Box 5151, Stn. LCD-Merivale, Ottawa, ON, K2C 3H4. Fax: (613) 224-5982. E-mail: rstewart@scouts.ca.

Your feedback will provide lots of material for upcoming *For Volunteer* articles. X

"GIVE ME SOMETHING USEFUL!"

When creating your training presentations, keep in mind that it is more important that participants *learn something*, than it is for them to be entertained. Sometimes the two go together, but spend more time giving thoughtful content, than you do trying to make a glitzy sound and light show.

BAR TO THE SILVER ACORN

From the Awards File Mr. Milton Haynes

Since receiving the Silver Acorn in 1984, Mr. Haynes has continued to serve Scouting at both the provincial and local level. He serves on the provincial training team, and also as a member of the Lachute Group Committee, QC.

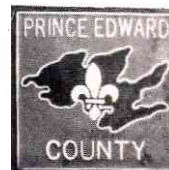
Scouter Haynes encourages all leaders in his group to become actively involved in the training programs provided. He continues to set an example for the leaders and group committee by attending Woodbadge courses. His active participation creates enthusiasm and commitment from those around him. As Jeff Gordon, the Group Chair states, "...after 60 years within the Scouting Movement, it is a humbling experience for those of us around him to witness such lasting dedication, commitment, and enthusiasm. He is indeed an excellent ambassador for Scouting."

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SCOUTER'S 5

- ☐ November and December are months when most Canadians exchange gifts, eat luxurious meals and renew old friendships. Below are a number of quotes — mostly from King Solomon — about how we should guide our thoughts and actions during this festive season.

- ☐ Use these quotes to start discussions in your group. Several thoughts, especially those relating to the poor, may spark an interest in launching a food hamper outreach program in your group. If your group does distribute food, make sure you pass out information about your Scouting activities; make sure everyone feels welcome.

Solomon's Wisdom

"If a person shuts his ears to the cry of the poor, he too will cry out and not be answered."

— *Proverbs 21:13*

"Whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income."

— *Ecclesiastes 5:10*

- ☐ "He who oppresses the poor shows contempt for his Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy, honours God."

— *Proverbs 14:31*

- ☐ **Watch What You Say**

Christians call Jesus the "Prince of Peace" because He came to bring peace: peace between people, and between mankind and God.

- ☐ Sometimes gossip and angry words destroy friendships and create discord: the peace dies. Talk about the quotes below. Are they true? How can you apply them in your life? Do any of them

Scouter's 5 Minutes, p.789

Nov. '97

SONGS

The Jungle Book Rap

- ☐ This song will teach new Cubs the names of different *Jungle Book* personalities. It's also excellent for singing when White Tail Beavers visit your pack. It will help them understand Cubbing's jungle theme.

- ☐ Sing it to a 1-2-3 beat like Queen's, "We Will Rock You." It's perfect for camps or around a fire, especially when accompanied by a wash-tub, a cardboard box and clapping hands.



- ☐ **Leader:** I am Akela of the Seeonee.

Group: Seeonee, Seeonee.

Leader: I'm the leader of the pack and they follow me.

- ☐ **Group:** Follow me, follow me.

Leader: Bagheera the panther is sleek and black.

Group: Sleek and black, sleek and black.

- ☐ **Leader:** He's a silent hunter and friend of the pack.

Group: Friend of the pack, friend of the pack.

Songs, p.113

Nov. '97

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the leader

Leader: Baloo the teacher's a big brown bear.

Group: Big brown bear, big brown bear.

Leader: He's always welcome in a
Wolf Cub's lair.

Group: Wolf Cub's lair, Wolf Cub's lair.

Leader: Kaa the python, don't be 'fraid of him.

Group: 'Fraid of him, 'fraid of him.

Leader: He taught Mowgli how to swim.

Group: How to swim, how to swim.

Leader: Raksha, the demon. Mowgli's mom.

Group: Mowgli's mom, Mowgli's mom.

Leader: She kept him safe from ol' Shere Khan.

Group: Ol' Shere Khan, ol' Shere Khan.

Leader: Shere Khan a tiger, a mangy ol' cat.

Group: Mangy ol' cat, mangy ol' cat.

Leader: Mowgli killed him and that was that.

Group: That was that, that was that.

— Akela Rick Snider comes from the 119th Edmonton Pack, AB.

Songs, p.114

tie into your section Law, Promise or Motto?
Are there kind, healing words you can speak
right now to someone?

"Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the
tongue of the wise brings healing."

— Proverbs 12:18

"Without wood, a fire goes out; without gossip,
a quarrel dies down."

— Proverbs 26:20

The quiet words of a wise person are more to
be heeded than the shouts of a ruler of foolish
people.

— Ecclesiastes 9:17

"Even a foolish person is thought wise if he keeps
silent, and discerning if he holds his tongue."

— Proverbs 17: 28

The words of a kind, wise person encourages
many.

— Proverbs 10: 21

Meeting Closing

November and December are times to espe-
cially give your meeting a spiritual dimension.
Here is a meeting closings that you might want
your Scouts and Venturers to discuss. How rele-
vant is it in their young lives?

"There is more faith in asking questions of
God (even angry questions!) than not asking.
King David and Job asked, even demanded,
answers. In some circumstances, perhaps we
should ask why."

— Keith Martin, Spectrum Productions

Scouter's 5 Minutes, p.790



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Time to Ban the Anti-Clapping Campfire "Law"?

Why are Cubs and Scouts not supposed to clap around a campfire? Isn't this "law" just an attempt to instill an adult way of doing things in youth? Perhaps we've forgotten why we gather around campfires and sing songs. It's to give our youth a good time.

Recently, I attended a campfire at an inter-district Cub camp. As dusk approached, our pack walked into the campfire area and took a seat behind the pit. Hundreds of other participants joined us on a patch of grass on a hill overlooking a beautiful pond. As I waited, I drew in a deep breath of fresh air. The setting was lovely.

When everyone was ready, the PA system came to life, and the campfire started. As I watched, I thought, "This is one of the most creative campfire openings I've ever seen." My excitement grew. This was going to be a great program. I couldn't wait for the first act. As the campfire opening came to an end, and the flames started rising higher, the large crowd suddenly broke into a thunderous applause.

The crowd (mostly Cubs) had a few seconds to show their appreciation and enthusiasm. They cheered and clapped loudly. They were already enjoying themselves thoroughly, and wanted to express themselves in a way they knew best. It was an open, spontaneous display of appreciation — a mood that

would have made just about any campfire organizer proud.

"Excuse me!" came a voice booming over the loudspeaker. The words sounded full of reprimand.

Silence. The clapping and cheering stopped abruptly. Everyone felt a sudden chill. We knew we had done something very wrong.

"You all should know," the voice continued, "that **CUBS DON'T CLAP!**"

The silence continued. The mood was dead. Instinctively, I sat on my hands. I felt almost ashamed of my transgression. Looking around I could sense that others felt the same way. With our stern warning out of the way, the campfire continued. But the mood had been changed. Now it was almost somber. Some people even felt afraid to laugh at obviously funny skits.

I've tried to understand this anti-clapping "law" for a long time. Some people have told me that we shouldn't allow clapping because there are other ways to express appreciation — like cheers. However, if a cheer is meant to replace applause, it should happen as quickly and as spontaneously as the applause. Many campfires I've been to have featured cheers long after the funny skit. The cheer seems stiff and inappropriate.

Others say we shouldn't allow clapping because it helps to instill discipline. But I have been to many outstanding

campfires at the Haliburton Scout Reserve where groups present skits and songs, all followed by loud, enthusiastic applause. Order and good conduct don't break down, despite the applause. Nor does anything get "out of hand."

At times, it seems we are more worried about a group breaking the anti-clapping "law" than the Cub or Scout Laws.

Over the years we've changed our Scouting uniform. We've modified the Cub program. Recently, we even dropped the beret as official head gear. Perhaps it's time to officially drop the anti-clapping rule. As one Venturer I know says, "Grieve the past if you must, but do it quickly and then get on with the future."

If your group breaks into spontaneous applause, you may want to ignore it. Better still, why not enjoy it? Why not even celebrate it! This harmless act displays the exuberance and enthusiasm of youth. Δ

— Richard Billings, Barrie, ON.

Take a Hike With Your Sponsor

Last spring, Scouts from Penticton planned a "mountain goat" day hike with their sponsor organization, the Penticton-Okanagan Rotary Club of British Columbia. The 12-kilometre route followed a twisting path up into the mountains. Hikers saw a raging stream, beautiful forests, alpine meadows, snow-capped mountains, even mountain sheep. Although poor weather meant some people didn't attend, those who did got to know each other much better.

We now plan to make this an annual event.
— Lloyd Higgs, Penticton, BC.



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Cooperative Games

by Ross Francis

COOPERATING, SHARING AND PLAYING by the rules can present a major challenge for young children. Just see what happens when you throw one ball in the centre of the meeting hall floor. If you don't provide any rules, look out!

Games can help children develop positive skills, but always avoid activities that make winners and losers. Games should help Beavers learn to:

- take turns and share,
- accept and play by simple rules,
- develop new skills,
- play fair and respect others, and
- develop patience while they wait their turn.

Before actually playing a game Beavers must learn to sit still and listen to the leader describe how to play. Take time to explain the rules carefully; perhaps give a demonstration. Allow a minute or two for Beavers to ask any questions they might have.

Here are a few simple, easy-to-play games.

Lap Ball

Players sit side-by-side, shoulder-to-shoulder in a circle. The object of the game is to pass a ball around the circle from lap to lap without using hands. This game teaches

patience (as Beavers wait and watch) and cooperation (as they manoeuvre the ball onto their neighbour's lap).

Round Up

Use tables and chairs to build a corral to one side of the meeting room. Divide your group into "cows" and "cowboys." Just have two or three cowboy Beavers; the rest should be cows.

The cowboys should leave their neckerchiefs on, while the cows leave their hats on so everyone can tell who's who. On a signal the cowboys chase the cows around the room. When they tag a cow they must lead the critter peacefully to the corral where he must stay until one of the free cows can sneak in and free one or more captured beasts (by tagging them). If all the "cows" get corralled, let your Beavers switch roles and play again.

This game teaches patience, fair play and the need to follow rules. Some Beavers might find it difficult having to sit in a corral with wild, exciting action happening all around them.

Billy Beaver's Travels

Beavers will enjoy this noisy story game. Sit them in a circle and begin a tale about Billy Beaver's long journey, during which he must travel by plane, train, car, bus, truck, horse, camel — whatever your imagination can conceive. Whenever Billy boards a new mode of transport, the Beavers leap up and run once around the pond pretending they are his transport (plane, train, camel, etc.) before returning to their places to sit again for the next part of the story.

This game teaches Beavers the need for silence, listening and staying in proper order as they travel through the story.

Find the Leader

Everyone sits in a circle facing one another. One or more children become "IT" and leave the area. While they're away, choose one Beaver as the leader of the game. Everyone must follow the leader's actions as she claps her hands, then stomps her feet, and so on. Once the actions have begun, ask IT to come back and watch the Beavers doing the various actions. IT must try to find the leader.

Make sure the Beavers don't stare at the leader. The children must learn to cooperate with the leader and follow her actions, all the while not revealing who she is.

Throw a Smile

Sit everyone in a circle so each Beaver can see the others' faces. Players must make a sad or mad face, but not smile. One person (IT) starts the game by smiling; she then wipes the smile off her face and throws it at another Beaver. The child who is hit by the smile is now allowed to smile, *but only him*. Everyone else must continue to frown. Frowning will soon become increasingly difficult.

Expect Beavers to become very zany when they're "hit" by a smile. Your kids will know more about patience and how to follow rules after your "throw a smile" game.

Cooperation, sharing and fair play are not difficult skills to teach with the right activities. The lesson can also be lots of fun!

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Don't You Trust Me?

Police Record Checks and Volunteer Screening

by Bryon Milliere

"Don't you trust me?"

Many volunteers ask this question when we mention the need for a police records check (PRC). Just the words "police records check" cause discomfort in many people who have nothing to hide. So are these checks really necessary, and what do they prove?

PRCs represent one important step in Scouts Canada's National Adult Volunteer Screening Process, passed in May. Our National Council decided that it would be better to conduct police records checks for thousands of volunteers who may not have a record, than to overlook information on a few dangerous individuals. Councils that tried the process last year can attest to its worth.

In fairness to all new volunteers who will be joining our Movement this fall, your council will be asking existing volunteers to take this basic step as part of their re-appointment. Contact your local council to find out details for your area.



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identify and keep them.**

What Is a PRC?

The process and output varies widely depending on your police service, but generally it involves a search of all police records. The primary source is the Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC), maintained by the RCMP. CPIC can provide information on:

- criminal records of adults,
- criminal records of young offenders,
- criminal records involving a verdict of "not guilty by reason of mental incompetence",
- charges pending under federal statutes.

Further probing of local or regional databases can provide information about:

- convictions for summary offenses,
- charges pending under provincial statutes,
- records of civil judicial proceedings concerning child abuse,
- admission of abuse against vulnerable people where charges were not laid,
- pardoned Criminal Code convictions, or convictions for which a conditional or absolute discharge was given,
- suspect data,

- information about the individual as a complainant, victim, or witness to an occurrence,
- motor vehicle offenses.

The police will provide Scouting (or the individual whose record we are checking) with the contents of a file, or a recommendation based on relevant information for the Scouting position, or a report on the existence of a record. Scouts Canada agrees to hold the information in *strict confidence* and to make judgements about the applicant's suitability without violating the Charter of Rights and Freedoms with respect to discrimination.

If you decide to reject an individual, your reason must relate to his or her volunteer role.

Since Scouting volunteers sometimes move around a lot within a section or group, you should apply a higher standard to a given role than normal. For example, a group committee chair has little direct contact with youth (according to most job descriptions), but any group would welcome her assistance at a Cub camp where she would work closely with kids.

What if You Have a Record?

The existence of a police record is not enough reason to reject your application. Recruiters must consider the contents of the record and decide whether the described activities, plus other information known about you, suggest a risk or unsuitability for the role. Scouting is particularly concerned about abuse towards children, violent acts, criminal behaviour and similar activities that would call into question your trustworthiness, your ability to work cooperatively with other adults, or your ability to make proper decisions about youth or resources in your care.

We're looking for good role models for youth: adults who can help young people develop physically, mentally, socially and spiritually. The passage of time doesn't erase a crime, but in time, some individuals can successfully turn their lives around and rejoin society as responsible citizens. Recruiters must use their own wisdom and judgment based on the information available about the individual and the role, to make an accept/reject decision.

Thank you for taking time to ensure that Scouting is a safe place for children to grow.

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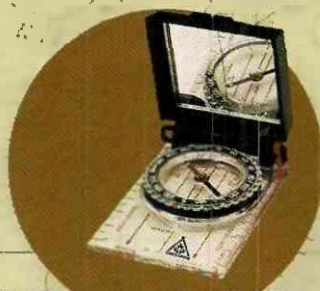
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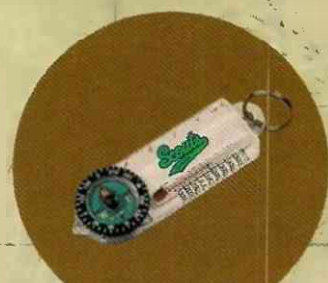
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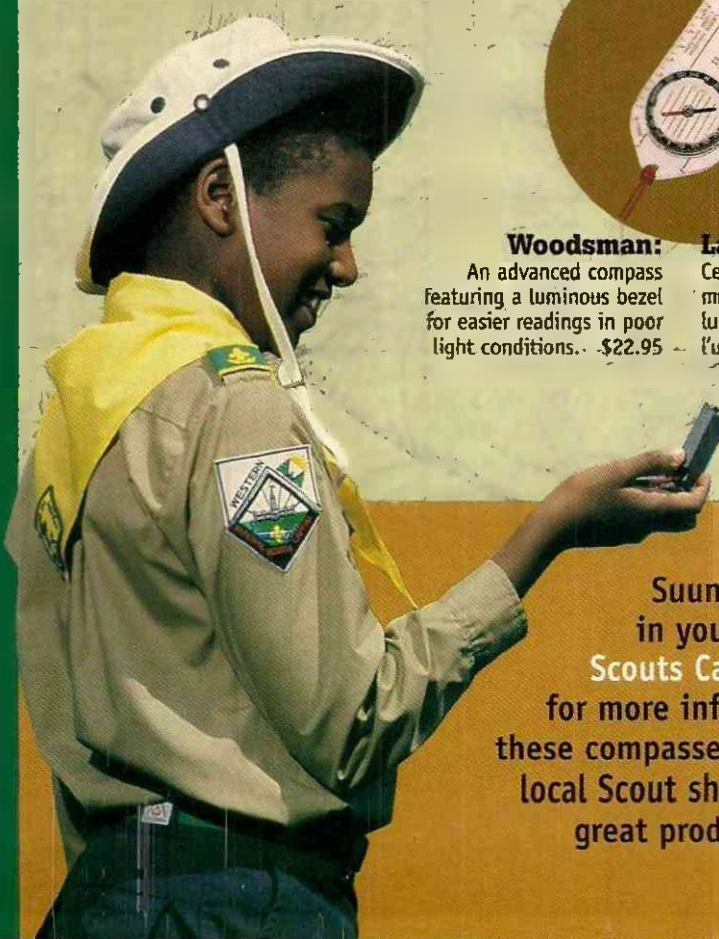
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