

BLUE SEA CAMP

- A Watery Linking

by Susan Muehlher

All aboard for the Blue Sea camp! Excited Beavers and Cubs troop into camp, not quite sure what is going to happen this weekend. Lugging duffel bags, they mill around in front of the leaders' tents, eyeing the interesting surroundings. A linking camp is a great way to encourage third year Beavers to move into Cubs and build anticipation in younger Beavers. Consider implementing this scenario this spring, utilizing some of the following ideas and themes.

A water theme works well in the spring, as there is often lots of water (rain) and mud. As the youth arrive, sort them into small groups of both Beavers and Cubs. Younger Cubs will work well with younger Beavers; third year Beavers should be linked with older Cubs. Assign each group a name of a fish (trout, salmon, pike, bass, etc.). Once the youth are put into groups, give them time to stow their gear in their tents. Younger Beavers can put their day bags in their group's tent too. As they return to the leaders' tents, provide coloured foam sheets (a different colour per group), a fish outline to trace, scissors to cut them out and markers so they can write their group name and their names on it. Attach to their

hats or shirts with safety pins, so everyone will learn everyone's names. Don't forget to give leaders "fishy" names too!

Start the day off with a gathering game - Sardines. Choose one player to be "It". "It" is given three minutes to find a place to hide. No buildings or tents are to be used, although hiding behind one of these is fair. While "It" is hiding, define the boundaries of the game area and explain the instructions. The goal of the game is to find "It," but instead of racing him/her back, the youth are to slip quietly into the same hiding place, without letting anyone else see them. Continue until all the youth have squeezed into the hiding place - like sardines - or until a whistle is blown



Photo: Hazel Halgren

I THOUGHT THEY SAID IT WAS WARM WATER!

Photo: Dawn Kassis



CELEBRATE OCEANS DAY on June 8

The Canadian Wildlife Federation (CWF) is pleased to announce this year's theme is the International Year of Freshwater, which applies to all Canadians. Surf to their web site, www.cwf-fcf.org to explore Oceans Day. There are lots of water activity ideas for you to try!

to stop the game. First person to find "It" starts the game over again.

It's time to feed the hungry fish. For a morning snack, serve Fish nibblers and juice. As always, check for food allergies, and omit any ingredient if there are allergies.

Fish nibblers:

- 625 ml Cheerios
- 325 ml small pretzel pieces
- 250 ml fish shaped crackers
- 250 ml mixed nuts

Combine and put into a 3.5 L baking pan.

Stir together 75 ml cooking oil, and 10 ml Worcestershire sauce. Drizzle over the cereal mixture and toss to coat evenly. Bake in 300 degree (F) oven for 30 minutes, stirring occasionally. Cool and store in an airtight container. Makes about 6 cups.

As the youth finish their snack, they move over to the craft tables to make their "fishing" instruments.

Water Trawl

To make a water trawl, you will need coat hangers, old pantyhose, baby food jars (or similar glass jars), scissors, yarn and darning needles. Cut one leg off the pantyhose and stretch around the coat hanger, leaving the handle free. This will form a net similar to a butterfly net. Use the darning needle and yarn to stitch around the hanger, sewing the pantyhose material around the wire of the coat hanger. Carefully push the baby

food jar into the toe of the pantyhose.

Now it's time to explore the water near your camp. Wearing rubber boots and carrying water trawls, hike over to a body of water. Whether it's a small stream or a pond, there are lots of interesting creatures to investigate in the spring. Look for critters along the bottom or near the shoreline. Run the net through the water, lifting it up to check for critters caught in the jar. You may find water bugs such as water striders or boatmen; insect larvae from mosquitoes, or blackflies; nymphs from dragonflies or damselflies; or even pollywogs from frogs or bullfrogs. With a microscope or magnifying glass, the youth can count how many legs their creatures have, or see their mouths. If your pond or stream is healthy, there should be lots of bugs to count. How many different varieties can the youth find? While everyone is around the water, it's a good opportunity to discuss water safety and rules too.

After all this watery fun, it's time for lunch. Consider having lots of variety, so picky eaters can select foods they like. Items such as veggies and dip, or tortilla wraps with selections of cheese, meats, sauces and stir-fried veggies, will satisfy all hungry campers. Muffins and pieces of fruit with juice or water will complete the meal. Watery names for your food (fish rolls, shark fins, whale blubber) make the meal more fun.

Now it's time for paddle boat races. Using the instructions in the Cub

Book, make paddleboats or other boats of your design. Take the youth back to the water to test their creations. Remember that Beavers don't compete, so Do Your Best is the motto to follow. Set up water courses for the youth's boats to complete, add weights to the boats (how much weight can one boat carry?), and dream up other ways to play with the boats.

Frog Bog

Back at camp, make a Frog Bog instrument to play at the campfire. Cut a rectangle from green construction



BUG ALERT!

As new growth turns green in the spring, so does the bug population! Starving, bloodthirsty mosquitoes, blackflies and midges attack any exposed skin they can find. Melting snow, rain puddles and ice-melt-swollen streams provide the perfect habitat for bugs. In order to make your outing more pleasant, consider using a bug repellent or cover up. For tips on insect repellent, look up the *June/July 2003 Leader Magazine*, "West Nile Virus Alert!" article on Scouts Canada's web site. http://www.scouts.ca/media/documents/June_July2003pg28-30.pdf

paper to fit around a toilet paper roll. Decorate it to resemble a frog, then glue it to the roll. Make two small slits across from each other in one end of the roll. Repeat at the other end, making the slits even with the first set. Stretch a rubber band around the tube lengthwise, placing it in the slits. Play the Frog Bog instrument by plucking the rubber band. Experiment with different ways to play it.

While the youth are busy making their frog bogs, put together a list of "water" words in a paper bag. With the youth in their "fish" group, ask them to select three pieces of paper (no peeking!), then create a skit using those words. The skits will be presented during campfire.

PROGRAM LINKING – A YEAR LONG EVENT

Linking between sections helps to ensure a smooth transition as youth move between Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Venturers and Rovers. Exposing younger members to activities and program in the next section makes them eager to advance to new challenges. Plan linking experiences between leaders at the beginning of the year; attempt to provide at least four to eight opportunities to attend meetings, and one or more special activities. Advise members of your section to be a "big brother or big sister" to their younger Scouting members. Make them feel welcome, and help them with the new routines. By providing positive linking experiences, everyone benefits.

Whale Calls

Whale Calls is the name of the next game. Explain to the youth that whales navigate with sonar. In relay teams, blindfold everyone on each team, except for the team leader. Show the team leader the finish line and explain that he/she must guide their team (the whale) to the finish line using whistle clues. Each team decides how they wish to "swim" to the finish line (arm-in-arm, holding on to waistbands, holding hands, etc.) and what their whistle signals will be (one blast means turn right, one short, one long blast means go left, etc.) Blindfold everyone and start the game! The "whales" will quickly discover how difficult it is to navigate when hearing other noises. After the game is completed, have a brief discussion about how increased boat traffic affects the whale's ability to navigate.

After an early supper, have a campfire before the younger Beavers go home. Sing watery songs such as Row, Row, Row your Boat; Land of the Silver Birch; My Bonnie Lies Over the

Ocean (with actions); and The Swimming Hole (with actions). You will find most of these songs in *Scouts Canada's Song Book*. Allow time for each "Fish" group to present the skits they had worked on in the afternoon, then finish up with this Clean Water Yell. Divide into four groups.

Group 1: Ocean, ocean, ocean,
ocean, ocean;

Group 2: Splish... Splash...
Splish... Splash

Group 3: Good enough to drink;
Good enough to drink

Group 4: Fish-ing in-dus-try;
fish-ing in-dus-try

After each group has practiced their words, bring them in one at a time. Chanting gets louder as the leaders raise their arms. When the leaders drop their arms quickly, everyone yells: "Clean Water!"

A linking camp with a water theme is good, clean fun! Younger Beavers will leave dreaming of the day when they can swim up to Cubs too. X

– Susan Muehlherr swims around in Program Services and operates Program Tips and the Program Help Line.



THEY'RE easier to catch if THEY'RE standing still!

Photo: Myles Vanni

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