Bugged Out!

Going on a Bug hunt

Equipment: plastic bugs (found in craft stores or during Halloween season), small paper bags.

How to play:
Before the meeting, hide the bugs in the grass and trees or on the outside of the meeting hall (on window ledges, perched on brick edges, etc.). Save a few in case some children don't find any. Give each child a bug bag. Tell the children that on the word "go" they must try and find as many bugs as they can. They cannot touch the bugs with their hands, but must pick them up using sticks or other materials they can find in the area (sticks, stones, leaves, etc.). The children get to keep the bugs they find. If you are using just one bug for your theme, hide only that particular bug.

Caterpillar Race

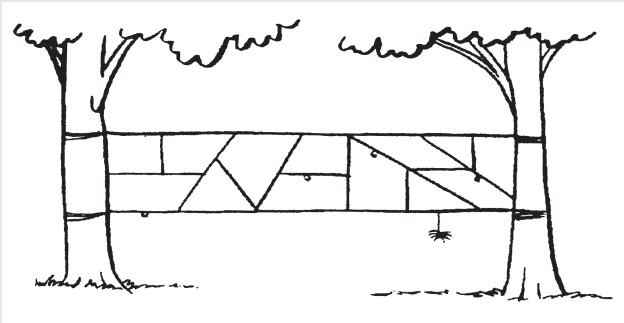
Equipment: one old sleeping bag for each team.

How to play:
Divide the children into teams. Have the children race to the end of the room and back while they are inside a sleeping bag. Tell them they cannot touch the floor with their hands or feet, only with the sleeping bag.

Spider Web

Taken from the Scout Teamwork JUMPSTART package.

Equipment: various lengths of nylon cord and several bells. See diagram for suggested method of tying ropes.



How to play:
The object is to move the entire troop through a nylon web without touching the web material. Tie the ropes in a web pattern between two trees. Count those in your troop so that there are at least as many web openings as there are bodies to pass through. Tie four or five bells anywhere on the web so movement of the cords (a touch) transfers readily to the bells.

If a bell tinkles, it means the spider has felt the participant; the Scout must begin again to keep from being eaten by a hungry spider. Try to find a horrible looking rubber spider and dangle it from one of the nylon threads — a touch of the bizarre to add fantasy and fun.

To make the event more challenging, indicate that each web opening can only be used once. This adds to the group commitment and the need for teamwork. You'll be surprised to see how small an opening a Scout can squeeze through (with help).

Safety tip: Don't allow anyone to dive through the web!

Dirt and Worm Dessert

This dirt's so tasty, you'll be licking the spoon clean! As always, watch for food allergies before serving.

Ingredients:
- ☐ 1 package of chocolate sandwich cookies
- ☐ 1 250 g (8 oz) package of cream cheese (room temperature)
- ☐ 250 mL (1 cup) icing sugar
- ☐ 125 mL (1/2 cup) melted butter
- ☐ 300 mL (1 1/4 cup) milk
- ☐ 1 box of instant chocolate pudding mix
- ☐ 500 mL whipped topping
- ☐ 24 gummie worms

What to do:
1. Place the cookies in a plastic bag and crush into large pieces with a rolling pin.
2. In a medium bowl, blend the cream cheese, sugar and butter until smooth.
3. In a large bowl, stir together the pudding and milk mix.
4. Gently mix in the whipped topping into the large bowl, then mix in the cream cheese mixture.
5. Place one quarter of the pudding mix in the bottom of a clear glass bowl, then one quarter of the cookie crumbs. Top with six gummie worms, placing them close to the sides of the bowl so they can be seen. Continue layering until all ingredients have been used.
6. Refrigerate for one hour before serving.

Insect Bites

A few "bites" of interesting facts about insects to dazzle friends and families.

- Some insects are called bugs. Bugs have sucking beak-like mouthparts and undergo gradual development. Immature stages and adult stages look much alike.
- Houseflies find sugar with their feet, which are 10 million times more sensitive than human tongues.
- Ants never sleep and can lift and carry more than fifty times their own weight.
- To survive the cold of winter months, many insects replace their body water with a chemical called glycerol, which acts as an "antifreeze" against the temperatures.
- All members of the Insecta Class have six legs. Spiders, with eight legs, are arthropods but not insects.
- About one-third of all insect species are carnivorous. Most hunt for their food rather than eating decaying meat or dung.
- Much of what we first learned about human genetics came from studies of fruit flies.