

# Paths of Peace

To celebrate and commemorate the hundredth anniversary of Scouting last year, the National Youth Committee created a life-changing initiative focusing on eliminating racism within our country. They felt that by educating our youth, and aiding them in educating others, we will provide a gift for peace; a gift of understanding and tolerance. Due to the importance of this message, *Gifts For Peace* is now a permanent part of Scouts Canada's programs.

*Gifts for Peace* was launched in the June/July 2007 issue of *The Leader*. If you missed the announcement, visit: [scouts.ca/inside.asp?cmPageID=760](http://scouts.ca/inside.asp?cmPageID=760).

The next five pages will provide you with a variety of ways that four different Scouting groups did to contribute to this nationwide *Gift for Peace*. Be sure to send in your *Gifts For Peace* activities to be posted on the national web site ([helpcentre@scouts.ca](mailto:helpcentre@scouts.ca)).

## Discovering Afghanistan Meeting Resource

by Chris Dougherty

### Egg Jousting Game

*Ages:* 6 and up

*Supplies:* one hard-boiled egg per youth

*Time:* 5-10 minutes

#### *Rules:*

Have the youth separate into pairs and give each youth an egg. Explain that the fat end of the egg is the HEEL and the small end of the egg is the HEAD.

To determine who will start the game, ask each pair to play rock, paper, scissors. The winner becomes the Challenger and the other youth is the Defender.

The Challenger faces the Defender and says one of these four statements: "With my HEAD, I will break your HEEL", or "With my HEEL, I will break your HEAD", or "With my HEEL, I will break your HEEL", or "With my HEAD, I will break your HEAD".

If the Defender feels that he/she can win the challenge, he/she responds, "Then break it!" and holds his/her egg in the palm of the hand with the thumb and finger circling the egg.

### Egg Jousting Game

The Challenger takes his/her egg and cracks it down on the Defender's egg.



The Challenger takes his/her egg and with the heel or head end up (depending on the challenge), cracks it down on the Defender's egg. If the Defender's egg cracks, then the Challenger wins this round. The Defender turns his/her egg over and the challenge continues. If the egg doesn't crack, then the Defender becomes the new Challenger.

Once the eggs are too cracked to continue playing, eat them.

*Options:* Add a craft by decorating the egg shells with food dye or stickers before starting.

Continue to eliminate players by pitting Challengers against Challengers, until the ultimate Egg Jousting Champion is declared.

## Afghani Tug of War

**Ages:** 8 and up

**Supplies:** a baseball bat or a wooden pole for each pair of players. Pole should be about 1 metre long with all edges sanded smooth, and at least 4 cm thick.

**Time:** 5 minutes

### Background:

Tug of War is a universal game. In Afghanistan, it is played between two people, symbolizing the struggle between good and evil.

### Rules:

This game is best played outside on the grass or snow. Divide the youth into pairs. Each pair makes a line on the ground between them, and stands on each side. Each player grasps the bat/pole. The object is to pull your opponent across the line.

## Other Activities

For Cubs, Scouts, and Venturers, try cooking some Afghan dishes — some recipes, such as the one below, can be found on-line at: [www.asiarecipe.com/afghanistan.html](http://www.asiarecipe.com/afghanistan.html).

## Mourgh (Afghan Chicken)

### Ingredients:

2 large peeled garlic cloves  
1/2 tsp salt

2 cups plain, whole-milk yogurt  
Juice and pulp of 1 large lemon, about 3 - 4 tablespoons  
1/2 tsp cracked black pepper  
2 large whole chicken breasts

### Directions:

Long, slow marinating in garlicky yogurt tenderizes, moistens and adds deep flavor, so you end up with skinless grilled chicken that's as delicious as it is nutritionally correct. Serve with soft pita or Arab flatbread and fresh yogurt.

Put the salt in a wide, shallow, non-reactive bowl with the garlic and mash them together until you have a paste. Add yogurt, lemon and pepper and blend well.

Skin the chicken breasts; remove all visible fat and separate the halves.

Add to the yogurt and turn so all surfaces are well coated. Cover the bowl tightly and refrigerate. Allow to marinate at least overnight, up to a day and a half. Turn when you think of it.

To cook, remove breasts from marinade and wipe off all but a thin film. Broil or grill about 6 inches from the heat for 6 - 8 minutes a side, or until thoroughly cooked. Meat will brown somewhat but should not char. Serve at once. Serves 6.

## Peace Crests

Canada is considered to be one of the most influential and multicultural nations in the world. Our borders are open to everyone; accepting all

racers, religions and cultures.

Education is a small, but powerful force that will change the very landscape of Canadian society. Upon completing the *Gifts for Peace* requirements, crests for your campfire blanket are available from your Scout Shop. X

— *Chris Dougherty is a Council Field Executive with Chinook Council, AB. This article was previously in the Fall 2007 Chinook News.*

### Program Links:

Cubs: Purple Star A10, parts of World Cubbing Badge.

Scouts: part of the Cultural Awareness Challenge Badge.

## Website Resources

To complete the Gift for Peace, youth need to do some research. The following web resources are a good starting point:

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/scholasticnews/indepth/afghanistan/>

<http://library.thinkquest.org/CR0212302/afghanistan.html>

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/af.html>

<http://www.asiarecipe.com/afgculture.html>

## Discovery Camp

by Erin Wrightson

Every fall, the 8th Newmarket Group holds an all section camp. Last year we decided to use the *Gifts for Peace* initiative as a theme for our camp. Since we were all together for meals, we took that as an opportunity to share information about different countries.

Our group, although getting more diverse as the years go by, is still fairly homogeneous so our information mainly came from books from the juvenile section of the library and magazines such as *Kids Geographic*. We learned about the geography, food, culture and lives of children in Argentina, China, Uganda, Japan, and Italy.

A world map posted on the wall, as well as articles about each country were well used. Yes, we did find kids looking at maps and reading during free time. We also shared some of the things that different countries are doing to help protect the environment.

During Scouts Own, we used *The Golden Rule Across the World's Religions*, produced by Scarboro Missions. Previously found in the November 2006 *Leader Magazine*, it contains Thirteen Sacred Texts, illustrating how the Gold-



Photo: Pat Lusink

en Rule can be found in all religions. As the Scouts took turns reading all thirteen short passages, saying how everyone should treat others with love and respect, the hush of 14 little Beavers and 17 Cubs was truly a moving, spiritual moment. We concluded with a minute's silence as we thought about how there are times in all our lives when we have stood by and watched racism and prejudice happen, how maybe we have contributed to it and how by understanding one another we can live without fear of each other and make the Golden Rule a reality.

— *Erin Wrightson, Raksha, 8th Newmarket Pack, Newmarket, Ontario.*

# Angels of Peace

by Kerrie-Lynn Kossatz

Last summer, the planning committee for the Rideau Area Centennial Camp, held at Camp Opemikon (OPE), decided to include making an angel pin and thank you card as part of the camp's program. Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Venturers, leaders and OPE staff all took part in this craft. Each person coloured a card, made an angel and pinned it onto the card. We then sent it over to Afghanistan.

As you can see by the picture, Captain Larose was happy to receive the cards and pins. She sent this picture back to us, with a note of thanks. – Kerrie-Lynn Kossatz, 28<sup>th</sup> Ottawa Scouting Group, Ontario.

## Angel Pin and Card

by Heather Shore

**Supplies:** (found at most craft stores) large safety pin, white satin cord, angel bead, 2 gold metallic pony beads, white glue, scissors.

### Instructions:

#### Before the Meeting:

Cut the satin cord into 30.5 cm (12 inch) lengths. Dip the ends into white glue to stiffen the ends and let dry.

#### At the Meeting:

Make a half hitch to the safety pin by folding the cord in half and placing the folded end down through the middle of the safety pin. Draw the cord ends back through the folded loop and pull snug.

Slide a gold metallic pony bead up both cords and push it tightly to the half hitch knot. Attach the angel bead by pushing the left cord through the left side of the bead and the right cord through the right side of the bead. Slide another gold metallic pony bead up both cords and push it up firmly to the angel bead. Tie an overhand knot tightly under the bead. Trim cord ends.

### Angel Card

Provide construction paper cut in half, as well as an angel stencil and markers or crayons. Colour the angel, add personal words of thanks and attach the pin to complete.

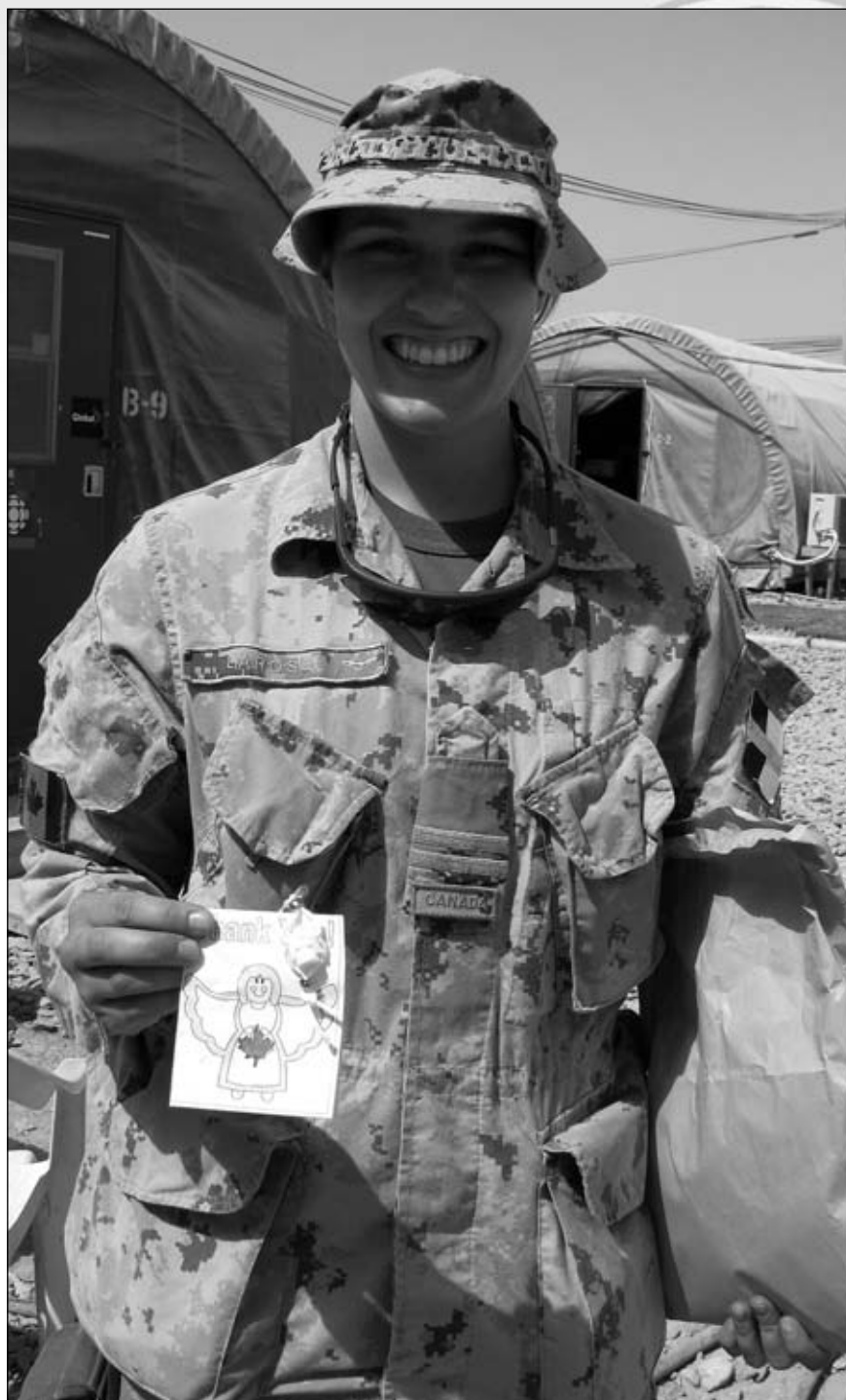
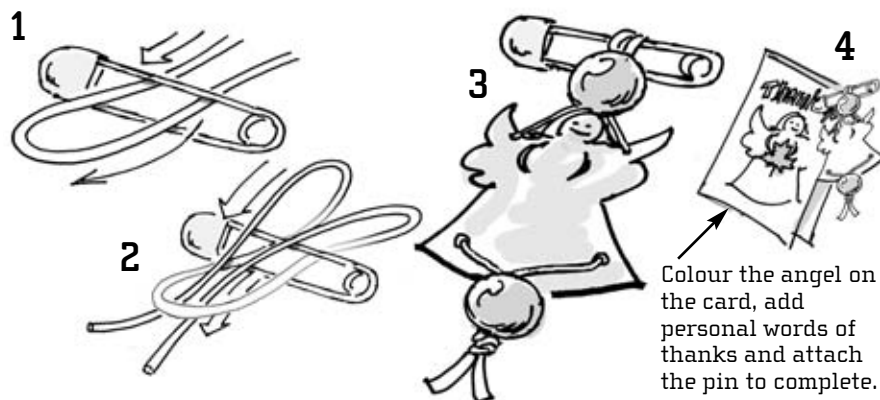


Photo: Scouts Canada Archives

## Angel Pin and Card Construction



Colour the angel on the card, add personal words of thanks and attach the pin to complete.

# A Holiday Party, Like No Other

by Jim Millington and Reverend Bill Craven

A Jew, a Muslim, a Hindu, a Shinto/Buddhist, and an Anglican priest walk into a pack meeting... What sounds like the beginning of an off colour joke is what happened as 2<sup>nd</sup> Bramalea youth learned about some of the holidays celebrated by these various faiths during the winter months.

As Akela of this pack of 18 youth, the idea came to me during a planning meeting early in the Scouting year. We were planning December and on the calendar we pencilled in "holiday party". I'm sure many out there can sympathize; you either call it a Christmas party and are criticized for not being politically correct, or call it a holiday party and are criticized for being too politically correct. It's a no-win situation. The thought occurred to me, if we call it a holiday party, then we should learn about all of the religions we can and their holidays. The Cubs will have fun, learn something new and we'll all get to celebrate with a holiday party.

I brought the idea to our group Chaplain who loved the idea. This was a good thing since I didn't have a clue

where to start gathering people from these religions. From then on, I handed the whole project over to the Chaplain; and what a wonderful job he did.

**A Holiday Party.  
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to celebrate.**

## Six Celebrations

The evening started with a presentation by Harry and Masako Kawabe, one of our youth's grandparents from Japan. Our presenters explained some of the basic beliefs of Shintoism. In Shintoism, the holiday that would fall during the same period as Christmas is Oshogatsu, which is the New Year festival. After learning some of the customs followed during this festival, we got to enjoy one of the common foods eaten during this holiday; basically, little rice cakes wrapped in seaweed.

Next up was our Islamic presenter, Brad Hassan, who is our Chaplain's next-door neighbour. He first told the fascinating story of Abraham, which he described as the founding of Islam. This story is very important



Photo: Andrew DeAguar (Cub)

to two holidays celebrated in December — the Hajj and Eid al-Adha. Muslims, if they are able, try to make a pilgrimage to Mecca once in their life, known as the Hajj. Mecca is the place where Abraham and his son built a shrine, which still

Eichler, friends of our Chaplain. They described Hanukkah, which means the festival of light. In their presentation, they told us the story of the Maccabees and of the two miracles of Hanukkah. The Cubs learned about the dreidel and the menorah

customs and traditions of Christianity. It seemed that all of our pack were quite familiar with those customs, but found it interesting nonetheless to learn about the origins of Christmas.

The meeting was a success; the youth learned a lot about many different religions. I even had them answer a question at a camp in January before I would allow them to have doughnuts. They did indeed recall why doughnuts are eaten at Hanukkah. The details of the lesson may be forgotten in time, but the lesson in respecting others' faiths and not fearing them because they are different, will remain.

**“The only true defence  
against fear is knowledge.  
Our only hope for Peace  
is understanding and  
respect.”**

stands today. Eid al-Adha is a religious festival commemorating Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son, as commanded by Allah.

The third presenters were a Jewish family, Susan Leah and Louis

too. It is important to note that this celebration has a lot to do with food; and as such, we had doughnuts. I must point out that the Cubs found this most enjoyable!

Our Hindu presenters, Bola and Vidiya, along with Neil Gangram and grandson Daniel, the other next-door neighbour of our Chaplain, were next. They talked about Diwali, also known as a festival of light. Their presentation included songs that told the story of how good triumphed over evil. Neil and Daniel accompanied the songs with drums. The pack was shown some oil lights and told about their significance, as well as the use of fireworks during the festival.

The final presenter was our Chaplain, Bill Craven, who talked about the

#### A Gift For Peace

The idea of making it an area wide, day-long event, with even more representation and immersion has been suggested for this year. I hope it happens; this party earned our Cubs the World Religions badge, as well as a few requirements towards their Purple Star. We also included a food and toy drive to help support the community, which is of many faiths.

It is our *Gift for Peace*, which I challenge you all to copy within your own section, whether it is Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Venturers or Rovers.

“The only true defence against fear is knowledge.

Our only hope for Peace is understanding and respect.”

— *Jim Millington is the Akela for 2nd Bramalea A-Pack and Reverend Bill Craven is 2nd Bramalea's Chaplain. They believe that the only true defence against fear is knowledge. We fear what we don't understand. People are people, and if we focus on similarities, it may be easier to accept and respect the differences.*

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*The details of the lesson may be forgotten in time, but the lesson in respecting others' faiths and not fearing them because they are different, will remain.*

Photo: Janette Jones