



Pack Specialty Badge – Developing Country

by John Marcil

The 1st North Bay Pack took a great idea and over a month formed it into a Pack Specialty Badge.

The seed was planted when the pack started the “World Cubbing Badge”. A Scout leader was found with passion and drive on a great topic. Mr. Ken Sitter (from the Third Widdifield Scout Group) is an authority on Africa as he taught English in Botswana during his travels. With every requirement ready and on hand to give a one and half hour presentation, at the end of the meeting the Cubs received their badge. A magnificent slide presentation, artifact display, and account of the day in the life of a child, kept the youth mesmerized. What affected the Cubs the most was the plight of children their own age that are affected by malaria. The Cubs were full of questions and by the end of the night they had many African phrases down pat.

Interested in learning more about Africa, the Cubs put together a plan to work on and complete the “Pack Specialty Badge”. They also agreed that they wanted to directly help the children of Africa by setting aside their weekly dues while they were completing their badge.

To meet the requirements of our new pack specialty badge, we constructed a ten foot map of Africa. Together we explored seven topics:

- * geography and terrain of Africa
- * trade items that Africa produces



Photo: John Marcil

- * European influences and languages spoken
- * animals of Africa
- * trivia and facts
- * the anatomy and life cycle of the mosquito, and
- * the cause and cure of malaria.

As a group, we also played soccer in our gym with no socks or shoes, as youth in Africa would do.

With three weeks of work completed, we invited Scouter Ken back to our meeting hall to award the Cubs with their “Pack Specialty Badge”. The Cubs were pleased to present \$75.00, from the dues they had collected, to Scouter Ken. Through the efforts of

the Red Cross’ Malaria Bites campaign, this money will be used to purchase 11 mosquito nets to be given to children in malaria endemic areas, where the risk of malaria is severe.

Malaria is spread by mosquitoes and the nets protect children from being bitten at night while they sleep and when mosquitoes are most active. Since children share sleeping accommodations, one net often protects two, three or even four children from being bitten while they sleep. X

– *The Leader Magazine would like to thank Scouter Marcil for his energy and enthusiasm in helping the 1st North Bay Cubs turn an idea into a reality. The compassion of a child is amazing.*

Pack Specialty Badge Requirements – Developing Country

1. Take part in drawing a large scale map of the developing country you wish to learn more about.
2. Identify country names (areas, provinces, territories) and significant cities on your map.
3. Research the demographics of your country, (i.e. population, religions and languages spoken).
4. What animals can be found in your country? (Develop 20 trivia questions about the animals and play a game.)
5. Identify major physical features on your map.
6. Using pictures, identify 10 - 15 exports of your country.
7. Have a guest speaker come to your meeting and share their experiences in that country.
8. As a group, cook or share in some common foods eaten in your country.
9. Describe the typical day in the life of a child in your country.
 - a. Do the children go to school?
 - b. Play a game the children would play.
 - c. Are there any diseases that affect the children?
10. What can your group do to connect with your country of choice?