

A Guide to Cub Scout Camping:
Day Camp

&

Akela Family Camp

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From the website of
<http://rt492.org/gen/camping.html>

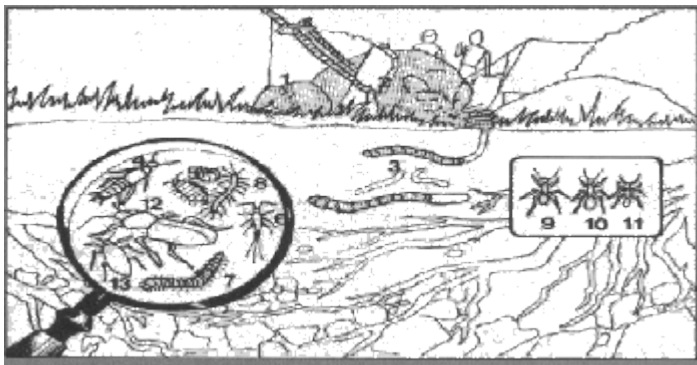
Type of Camp	Who Attends*	Site Approval By	Reference	Primary Leader	Leader Training
Cub Scout Day Camp	Tiger Cubs and adult partners, Wolf and Bear Cub Scouts, Webelos Scouts	Local council	Cub Scout Day Camp, No. 13-33815; Day Camp Standards, No. 13-108	Camp director and program director	Camp director and program director trained in National Camping School Cub Scout Day Camp Administration
Cub Scout Resident Camp	Wolf and Bear Cub Scouts, Webelos Scouts	Local council	Resident Camping for Cub Scouts. Webelos Scouts, and Parents, No. 13-33814; Resident Camp Standards. No. 19-108	Camp director and program director	Camp director trained in National Camping School Resident Camping Management; Program Director trained in National Camping School Cub Scout Resident Camping Program
Pack Overnights	Tiger Cubs and adult partners. Wolf and Bear Cub Scouts, Webelos Scouts, parents (siblings, if there is a separate	Local council See No. 13-508.) (An established campground should be used.)	BALOO, No.34162, Pack Overnights Site Approval Form. No. 13-508B	Pack leaders and parents	Pack leader trained In BALOO (Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation) held by the district or council

	program for them)				<u>training</u> team
Webelos Den Overnight Campouts	Webelos Scouts and parent(s)	Local council	Outdoor Leader Skills for Webelos Leaders, No.13-33640	Webelos leader and parents	Webelos leader trained In Outdoor Leader Skills for Webelos Leaders held by the district or council training team
Council or District Webelos Den Overnight Campouts	Webelos Scouts and parent(s)	Local council	Outdoor Leader Skills for Webelos Leaders. No. 3-33640	Council or district leaders	Council or district leaders trained In Outdoor Leader Skills for Webelos Leaders held by the district or council training team
Council or District Organized Family Camp	Entire families or parent(s)/sons (More than one pack attends.)	Local council	Council Family Camping Staff Training Guide, No. 13-468; Standards for Council-Organized Family Camps,	No, 13-406 Council or district on-site family camp director (could be the council family camp administrator)	Family camp administrator trained in National Camping School Resident Camp Management; on-site family camp director trained by family camp administrator

WHAT'S UNDER YOUR TENT??

You have probably got more sense than to pitch camp over a rabbit warren or on top of an ants nest or mole hill- but wherever you camp there's bound to be plenty going on under your tent.

Putting up tents can be a very noisy business and no matter how careful you are, you are bound to disturb the local wildlife. As you put down your ground sheet you will flatten the grass and disturb all sorts of small creatures. Many will move away but as warmth slowly builds up under the canvass, many more will be attracted to the site and activity will increase.



(1) **Lesser Shrew.** The Pygmy or Lesser shrew is the most common of five British species. You may see one scurrying along beside your tent at any time of the day or night. Shrews nest in underground burrows and feed on earthworms, wood lice, beetles and spiders.

(2) **Common Vole.** Keep your eyes open and you may see one of these little mouse like creatures as it moves around looking for berries and insects. Voles live in underground nests lined

with grass and straw and are active by day and night.

(3) **Worm.** There can be millions of worms in a field and they are very important as they mix up the soil and let the earth breathe. Worms can be up to 30 cm long and they feed on leaves and decaying vegetable matter.

(4) **Common Earwig.** The common earwig has wings but rarely flies. It eats small, usually dead insects as well as leaves and fruit. Earwigs are active both day and night and will often be attracted by the warmth of a tent.

(5) **Wood louse.** Wood lice live mostly in damp and shady places, under stones and logs. They are active only at night and, liking dark and damp, they will often crawl under a tent where the temperature and humidity are just right.

(6) **Two Pronged Bristletail.** This harmless little insect lives in the soil, is wingless and feeds on decaying matter.

(7) **Millipede.** Millipedes eat dead leaves and decaying material. They are about 25 mm long and are easily recognized, despite their size, as they have two pairs of legs on each body segment.

(8) **Centipede.** Centipedes are fast moving, eating mites and small insects. Their flattened bodies help them to move quickly through loose soil, grass and leaf litter.

(9) **Black Ant.** The black ant is one of over thirty species in Britain, most of them living underground in nests.

(10) **Yellow Meadow Ant.** The yellow meadow ant makes small mounds or anthills. The mounds are built to catch the sun's rays and to provide a breeding site.

(11) **Red Ant.** The red ant nests under stones and in rotting wood. The three species of ant mentioned here are all known as dairying ants because they 'farm' aphids. Aphids, of which the best known are greenfly, are small and soft skinned. They congregate in large numbers on plants to suck up the juices. The ants 'farm' them to drink their 'honeydew', a sweet substance which the aphids excrete.

(12) **Violet Ground Beetle.** Often found under large stones, they eat other insects and worms.

(13) **Green Tiger Beetle.** This fierce, sharp jawed predator is often seen in early summer. The larva pupates in a burrow and catches ants and other small creatures when they come close.

Don't buy a cheap tent!!

Most of the following pictures were taken in a 20 hour period in August at Tuolumne Meadows campground, Yosemite National Park. The evening had completely clear starry skies. At a little before

midnight it started drizzling and then it poured. Many people did not have good tents and had to cover them with an extra tarp or plastic sheeting.

There are dozens of varieties of cheap very tempting. If you were only going sleep out in the backyard, or if you would never rain when you camp out, with buying one.



tents and the prices are to use it for the kids to were certain that it you could get away



A good tent has a full rainfly that goes all the way down the outside of the tent. The one below also has a vestibule, or mini covered front porch as

well.

This family camps in luxury with a good tent and a room for the dining table.



screen



Cheap tents have only a partial, cap-sized rain fly. Rain soaks through all the tent roof not covered by the rain fly and drips into the tent. This can happen fairly quickly.

A good tent will have full zippers around doors and windows, not flaps. It will have full zippers around window and door covers in the rain fly, not flaps. Pitch the tent and test the zippers to see if they open and close easily.

The tent and rain fly should pitch taut. There should be a small amount of space all around between the fly and the tent when it is pitched.

Some of the people in the campground that night did not have a tarp to cover their cheap tents and moved into their cars until daylight, then packed up and went home. Most people packing up also did not have rain jackets and did their packing in a drizzle as their sweatshirts got slowly soaked.

Some people must have used their tents previously and knew they would leak, because they came prepared with an extra tarp set up as a rain fly.



One family had what looked like a good tent, but didn't take the time to pitch the rain fly on top. If they moved fast enough that night they might have stayed dry.



Someone was a perhaps a little overly

prepared, as this tent looks like a good one with a full rain fly underneath the tarp.



great campsite set up with a dining table and playpen, and raft for fun, but full rain fly. They packed up the next who had been playing on the river the vacation cut short.

One dad slept outside so the family would have more room in the truck/camper. He might have made it inside before he got too wet.



The family below had a canopy over the picnic the tent didn't have a morning and the kids day before got their

Below is a photo of a really shed snow or rain and with a down the sides. But to protect put a big blue tarp under it. The out a ways from the sides. So if the sides and create a big puddle on the tarp. It's better to custom cut a thick plastic bottom protection that fits completely under the bottom of the tent.



good tent, the right shape to rain fly that goes all the way the bottom from rocks the user problem is that the tarp sticks it rains, the rain will run down

At the De Anza [College](#) Outdoor dome tent with a full rain fly.

If you've been drinking enough need to get up in the middle of the opportunity on a winter trip to accumulation. A little insulation is okay, but knock a bunch off if it's been snowing heavily. On one De Anza Outdoor Club trip a tent collapsed from too much snow.



Club we recommend a freestanding

water to stay healthy, you will night. This gives you an check the tent for snow



FAMILY CAMPING - HELPFUL HINTS

- Pack children's clothes in a bundle ready for the day - socks, underwear, shirt, pants - altogether. Wrap elastic around the clothes to keep them together. Pack them in water proof Ziploc bags, from there into backpacks.
- Let each child have their own bag for their clothes (backpacks are great; they get use to carrying them prior to crossing over to boy scouts). They can pull out a bundle of clothes easily by themselves.
- Use as much 'undisposable' as you can: Mess kits that contain plates, cups, and utensils. Teach the boys that you pack out what you pack in. Teach the boys Conservation and Leave No Trace.
- Don't have a lot of money to get started? Look around your home, use what you have: Example, make bed rolls for sleeping bags.
- Have a "practice" camp out in your back yard. If you've forgotten something on your check list you can run to the house for it. Also, you'll see how your children will do.
- The first ingredient of a successful outing is a good plan. Consideration should be made of time, destination, activities, food, personal equipment and organizing group tasks.
- Take along an onion bag to hang your pots in after washing. It keeps them clean and up out of the way.
- Take cheeses, crackers, jerky, fruit (dried), candy bars, etc. for lunches instead of stopping to cook a full meal.
- Make a checklist of items your camping mode includes, and then check it each time you leave home. Nobody is enough of an expert to think of everything. Among items most often forgotten: salt, matches, tool kit, flashlight, batteries, mantles, ample rope and cord.
- Use big plastic lawn bags for camp garbage. Anchor with a rock and/or tie one corner to a tree. Smokey Bear will love you!
- A small "toy" broom is perfect for camp use. Roll it up in the tent or tuck in a corner closet of the camper. It is small enough to get into tight corners.
- If you're cooking over an open fire, coat the bottom of your pans with soap ahead of time, for ease in removing soot. This is an oldie but it really works.
- A small police type whistle can carry a long distance in the outdoors Buy one for each member of your camping group - with strict instructions to blow it only if lost or in an emergency. Great for small kids.
- Use empty plastic pill bottle (remove the labels) for matches, toothpicks, lantern mantles - or any other small item that might get lost or broken. These snap top bottles can really take rough going. Film canisters (35 mm) work well too - but they aren't see-through.
- Often the last thing you do before you leave camp site is wash up dishes and clean up gear. Use the dish water to make doubly sure the fire is out. Pour and stir.

- Nylon net makes a tough, fast drying dish cloth for camp work. A square doubles as a strainer, too.
- To make sure an easy hand washing station for camp, hang a large plastic jug from a tree, punch a hole in the side (just above the bottom) and whittle a wooden plug to fit. Attach the plug with a string, so it won't get lost, fill the jug with water and let it warm in the sunshine. Keep at the right height for small fry, hang a towel next to the jug and see how clean everybody stays.
- You can make a camp hotter heater by filling a square tin five gallon can with water, then setting it close to the fire. Add cold water occasionally to replace the warm to hot that you take out.
- Add half gallon milk cartons or plastic Clorox jugs filled with water and frozen as good ways to keep your ice chest cool but dry.
- A child's collapsible wading pool makes a neat camping bathtub. Set it up inside the tent (or out in the clearing if you're camped in the boonies), fill with water and let solar energy heat it for you.
- Dining flies are easy to set up and provide shade and rain protection for less than \$30.00. They'll make life easier for tenters, camp owners, even motor home types.
- Tie or use a large safety pin - a sock to the tent opening and put in a small flashlight. If somebody has to get up in the night, the light will be easy to find (and put back). A magnetic flashlight at the door of the camper will serve the same purpose.



Cub Scout Camping Checklist (What to Bring)

Please be prepared and bring all the items you will need when you go camping. Here is a list I have been compiling over the years to help you determine what you may need. Some items may be coordinated with others to avoid duplication. When in doubt, bring it!



- Tent & tent pegs/stakes
- Tent Broom
- Tarp for under Tent
- Rake (to clear area under tent)
- Sleeping Bags
- Air mattress, Cot, Sleeping pad
- Extra Blankets
- Pillows
- Ear Plugs
- Bug Repellant
- Sun Screen
- Lantern
- Flash Light
- Table & Chairs
- Folding Chairs (Handy around the campfire)
- Stove and fuel or metal grate to put over campfire
- Firewood for campfire (Mandatory)
- Lighter fluid for fire
- Matches
- Canteen or water bottle
- Cord, rope, clothes pins
- Long fork or hangers for roasting marshmallows
- Small tools hammer, wrench
- Bucket – for water to put out fire
- Shovel, to put out campfire
- First Aid Kit
- Fishing gear
- Pack and Den Flags
- Food, Snacks, Beverages, Coffee
- Ice Chest / Cooler w/ice
- Salt, pepper, condiments
- Cookware & cooking utensils
- Hot Pads or gloves
- Plastic / Paper cups, plates, utensils, bowls
- Coffee mugs
- Paper towels, napkins
- Toilet paper
- Soap
- Dish rags & Dish soap, Brillo Pad
- Can opener
- Garbage bags
- Baby wipes
- Extra change of clothes
- Dry sleep clothes-you will stay warmer
- Extra socks, shoes, underwear
- Rain gear – poncho recommended

- Sweatshirt and/or Jacket
- Hats
- Towels and washcloth
- Personal items & toiletries
- Place clothing in Ziploc bags to keep dry
- Books (Tree / Bird Identification or Other)
- Cub Scout Handbooks (Mandatory)
- Camera & film
- Good Attitude :)

Pocketknife – Only Cub scouts who have earned their whittling chip and are supervised by a parent are allowed to have knives.

NOTE: Leave Your Pets At Home!

Idiots' Guide to Camping

1. TENT:

DON'Ts - Don't get the megabuck humongous tent with...ahem... aluminum poles. First off you need an associate's degree in engineering to put one up. Second it takes you around 30 minutes to set it up IF you can figure out how to do so. This is however an excellent tent for you if you:

- A. Like to get mad &
- B. Know lots of colorful expletives.

DO's - I recommend an 8x8 Dome Tent. God bless those people that came up with nylon shock cords and graphite rods. In looking for a dome tent I'd suggest a 2 pole tent, square. A 3 pole hexagon tent isn't better, just a bigger hassle to put up. For example I donated my boy's tent to someone in the pack that didn't have one, and got our kids a new one. It's an Ozark Trail tent, 8x8. Huge vents, big door, huge rain fly. Takes 60 seconds to set up if you have your act together.

Tips:

a. Set up the tent in your yard so you know how it goes up. And also so you can waterproof the rain fly. Rip stop nylon won't leak except under 2 conditions in a rainstorm; the nylon walls will act as a wick and suck water through them onto ANYTHING touching the walls inside. Don't touch the walls inside your tent during the rain.

The seams on the rain fly have itty bitty holes made by the needle that poked the thread through to sew them. Your tent may come with a tube of sealant; use it to seal the seams. If not you can get it at Kmart, etc...

If your tent got wet make sure you let it dry before you roll it up. If for some reason you can't then set it up as soon as you get home. Mildew is a pain to clean up after.

b: Don't put your tent in the following places.

- a slope. I've figured out through careful scientific study that the coefficient of friction between a nylon sleeping bag, and the floor or ground sheet insufficient to keep you from sliding downhill. Without a semi level base you'll soon find yourself scrunched up against a tent wall, your kids, your wife, or if your door is open.... outside somewhere.
- in a hollow....if it rains the hollow will fill up. I have yet to find a tent that floats.

2. Sleeping Bag and Cushion

That's really up to you and it really depends on where you are camping. Get something warm, reliable, and comfy. You only need to seriously consider weight and type in a sleeping bag when going on a hiking trip. Now as for cushioning, if it's just me with the kids I take her bag along and use it as my cushion. It's also handy if it gets REAL cold. I have a spare. Your local stores have lots of cushions, cots, etc. to choose from. It basically boils down to how comfy you need to be and how much stuff you want to tote around.

3. I take 3 coolers with me:

- 1. Cold drinks & cold food.
- 2. Dry goods...bread, etc. - you get the picture.
- 3. Luxury items that may become a necessity quicker than you can say "Oh Crap!" These are the following
 - Shovel. For putting out and covering up a campfire. Leave no trace/minimal impact to your site. A mound of dirt is gentler on the eyes than a pile of carbonized tree parts. Also you might not have a toilet and bidet handy so a hole in the ground works just peachy. Cat holes should be dug 100 ft or so from any water, people, etc. - and covered up.
 - Flashlight - for finding your way in the dark to go dig that cat hole or just to find the latrine. It gets dark in the woods, and as my wife pointed out. Can pinpoint those spiders in the latrine you don't want to sit on.
 - Lantern extra mantles and propane. Or, if you don't mind the cost of batteries an electric lamp may be in order with extra batteries.
 - Rope - Lots of uses. I'm sure you'll think of one and be glad you brought some.
 - A hefty bag. Take your trash out please.
 - Hatchet - self explanatory
 - Lawn Chair - Some logs have ants, lawn chairs don't unless you plant your chair on top of an ant bed.
 - Raincoat/Poncho. In the woods, an umbrella is useless unless you enjoy having it torn apart in a thicket or have an overpowering desire to be a lightning rod.
 - Toilet Paper...Duh. Don't be smart and try using leaves. You've heard of poison ivy perhaps?

- !!!!! Bug Spray - Those little bloodsucking vampire bugs are a major pain. A little Deep Woods Off helps even if it does make you and your tent mate smell like something fresh from a duping factory.
- !!!!! First Aid Kit - Self explanatory. You hopefully won't be expected to perform brain surgery but you can deal with the basics.
- Can Opener - you ever tried to get one of those tin cans open with your teeth?
- Percolator Coffee Pot - in case you are addicted to caffeine.
- My Personal Favorite: A book for late at night.
- Cameras - No you can't take that bear home with you but you can take a snapshot if you aren't already running from the bear.

One other thing. Get a Boy Scout Handbook. Has handy stuff in it that is not in your Cub Scout's book. Plus it has neat activities to do. For instance I'm taking some plaster of paris to make prints of animals with.

4. Cooking:

This is up to you. Some scout camping functions will feed you. Some won't. I love Dutch ovens even though I don't have one. I haven't progressed that far in my purchasing list but I assure you I'll get there someday. But - a \$20 aluminum camping cook set works wonders.

Fire: Directly related to cooking. Make sure you have Prometheus's gift in some form. Matches, IBC lighter, flint and stone. Something that makes flame. Your medium of fuel is up to you. Firewood, coals, Bunsen burner, etc. Also check if there is a fire ban in your camping area. Dry weather and an untended campfire is an invitation for disaster and Bambi doesn't look cute fried extra crispy.

Don't forget the Marshmallows!

CAMP ACTIVITIES

If you camp at a State or Federal park, you may be able to take advantage of the programs there.

However, you should plan a variety of activities that will appeal to all ages that attend and remember to set aside some time for people to just relax and have fun. HIKES
How about an exploration hike so everyone learns the territory. Check to see if there are some local specialties that might appeal to your pack members. Click [HERE](#) for different kinds of hikes and also consider night hikes or before breakfast hikes for something different. GAMES:

You will want to have a variety that suit kids of all ages as well as the adults. The old reliable like tug-of-wars, softball, and volleyball are always favorites.

CAMPFIRES

How to build a campfire that doesn't smoke a lot and how to put out a campfire thoroughly, without annoying the neighbors (according to rules for Yosemite National Park, and many other jurisdictions).

Smoking campfires cause a lot of pollution and can get your next door campsite neighbors coughing. It is easy to build a campfire that doesn't smoke much. You need good firewood that you bought or brought from home. (Yes, you can spend time whittling pieces of wood into fancy tinder pieces, but I have other ideas for spending time on vacation). You need to split some of it with a hatchet, which is safer during daylight hours, or even better, can be done more easily at home in advance. (Or in advance at home you can split two by fours with a power saw!)

Green sticks off the ground won't burn well or at all (and it's illegal to collect firewood, pinecones or even pine needles in Yosemite Valley, for example). If you choose to use wood you find where you are camping, use only dead and down wood. Don't break branches from a tree even if it looks dead.

Almost everywhere you might camp will give you a copy of the rules when you arrive. They can be quite different than the last place you camped.



This fire will not light. The newspaper crumpled under the log will light and burn away without doing hardly anything to the big log.

This fire will not stay lit. The newspaper crumpled under the logs will light the small pieces of wood (sometimes referred to as tinder) but when they burn away the log will not have caught fire. It needs some in between sized pieces.

This fire is set up to succeed. It has a little newspaper, (not crumpled too tightly so it will get enough air), some small tinder and some moderate kindling sized pieces. The moderate sized pieces could have been in an A shape instead of a square. All the pieces of wood are close enough to each other to reflect heat from each other and keep burning, but not so close they won't get enough air.



Here we see the fire as it is after. By having it have to do anything to good wood matches, not Strike-anywhere-type against a rock. The of other kinds of wood out or gets wet.

Once the first setup gets going, more wood can be added.



lit and a few moments properly set up we don't make it stay lit. Bring paper book matches. matches can be started striking surface on boxes matches sometimes wears



As the wood burns, the pieces settle down and shift, in this case putting two pieces too close together and starting the fire smoking.

By separating the pieces slightly they now get more air and burn better, with less smoke.

More wood is added as the first pieces burn. Add them at an angle with lots of room for air circulation, but still close enough to the other pieces that they will reflect heat off each other and burn. If we wanted a campfire to last for awhile, we could add bigger pieces now.

In this demonstration, we firewood because we down into coals we could heat food over flames but heat.)



didn't add the big piece of wanted the fire to burn heat food on. (You can coals give more even

If we add bigger pieces for a longer fire they need company of other big pieces, too. Together a few big pieces might stay going, or they may need a few pieces of kindling added to help them burn as the evening goes along.

Do not leave fires unattended at any time.

Only build campfires in the designated grates or rings provided at your campsite.

Tie back your long hair before you lean over the fire.

Keep a few gallons of water ready near the firepit to put it out.

Don't burn trash or garbage.

Don't make a huge fire that can get out of control. Most experienced campers build small campfires that can actually keep people warmer than huge blazes you have to stand away from.

Don't try to use lighter fluid, lantern fuel or other explosives to start the fire.

Some places have regulations about what months of the year or time of day fires are allowed.

A campfire is a fun part of recreation, but not a toy for kids. Little ones should not poke around in the fire as they can too easily hurt themselves.

When roasting marshmallows, if one starts to burn and you don't want that flavor, either give it to someone who does or let it finish burning in the fire. Do not try to put out the flames by waving it in the air as you can cause flying bits of burning sugar to land on others.

A long wire such as an untwisted coathanger is safer for roasting food than a short twig.

Newspaper, lightly crumpled, is a good starter for small twigs/tinder for a campfire. Pine needles mostly smolder and smoke.

When it's time to put out the fire, Yosemite campground regulations say it needs to be put out with water, because a fire that's just left to burn out or buried in dirt will smolder and pollute the air. "Fires must be extinguished with water so that coals are cold and no smoke is visible."

But, if you just pour a bunch of water on a blazing campfire, you'll create a cloud of steamy smoke with a bunch of ash particles that may bother people two campsites away.

Instead, plan to take the time to put the fire out properly. Don't put on extra wood really near bedtime. When it's time to put it out, push the logs or remaining chunks of glowing charcoal apart, let them die down a little, and then finally sprinkle water on. If it makes huge clouds of steamy smoke, you need to let it die down before you put on more water.

To be sure it's out completely, move any lanterns away from the area, turn off any flashlights, stir the campfire debris around, then pour more water on any glowing coal bits. Don't let anybody dissuade you because they say they won't be able to build a fire the next day (they're wrong). If you visit a place like Yosemite valley often enough, you will notice the smog and be glad you didn't contribute to it.

CAMPFIRES may be large or small, formal or informal, storytelling or dramatic, mystery, Indian, stunt, songfest, or any combination of these. Most of all, the campfire program is important. It must have purpose, direction and a definite idea of what it is trying to accomplish.

Use "Campfire Program Planner" No. 3696 as a guide in planning campfires. Decide who will do what, and how. Write down the plan, even to the song titles. Check all items in advance to be sure they are in good taste.

CAMPFIRE INGREDIENTS

Songs -

Scouting, action, quiet, novelty and special occasion songs all can be used. The song leader should beat time and set the pitch before you start. The liveliest songs should occur early in the program, with the quiet songs saved until towards the end.

Stunts/Ceremonies-

Campfire stunts are fun and can be action, humorous, mixer, magic, or educational. The opening ceremony sets the tone for the whole program so it must be good, and attract and hold the attention of the group. A fire lighting ceremony is part of the opening. Closing ceremonies should be quiet, inspirational and challenging. Quiet songs, such as "Taps", a benediction or prayer, Indian sign language closing, are good.

Stories -

Storytelling is an art which almost anyone can acquire with practice. As long as the story holds together, the audience won't be too critical of your dramatic ability. It's the story they are interested in, not the storyteller.

The Main Event -

The program needs a Climax - an event that will top off the evening and make it something to remember. This could be a Boy Scout, telling of his Jamboree experiences or tales of Philmont trails. It could be a story. It should be the high point of the evening.

Showmanship -

Without showmanship, the campfire leader and all the songs, stunts and stories will fall flat. Showmanship is an indispensable ingredient that puts sparkle and life into a campfire program.

Follow the fire.

When it leaps high, the program should be loud and lively. As the fire dies down, the program becomes quieter and serious.

- Put the 'best' stunt last and the next best stunt first.
- Vary the pace by scattering stunts by individuals in among the den stunts.
- Dress up the campfire area. A tom-tom off in the distance is an excellent mood setter for an Indian program. Use ceremonial boards, candles, etc.
- Crowd control is easier if you insist on silence as the group enters the campfire ring. Make sure there is sufficient light so they can find their seats.
- Discipline is important. Squelch any horseplay immediately. Encourage enthusiasm, but maintain control.
- Get everyone involved in songs or stunts.
- Recognition should be a part of every campfire program.
- Inspiration contributes to showmanship and is essential to a successful campfire.
- Quiet as the embers die. Group can be asked to leave the campfire circle quietly.

Note: A pack campfire is an Impressive setting for a Webelos graduation. See "Staging Den and Pack Ceremonies".



CAMPFIRE GAMES

Choose games that are suitable for all ages of those at your campfire.

Never Ending Story

It starts Once upon a time... then the next camper adds a line, and then the story is passed around and around and around.

Charades:

Players act out the syllables of a word or phrase while the others try to guess what it is. Divide the den into two teams. Write a word or phrase and give it to one team. Ask them to leave the room to plan how they will dramatize the charade. After a quick rehearsal, the team returns and presents its act. Give each member of the other team a chance to guess what is being dramatized. Suggest that the teams start with simple charades, such as "air gun," "cat tail," "football," and "fire eater." When they have had some practice, try more complex charades such as TV show titles, book titles, and particular places. I'm

Going on a Hike Game.

You start by saying "I'm going on a hike and I'm taking bread. You say something that starts with your first initial. Make sure only one or two know this is how you play. If the person takes the correct thing you say "oh, you can go." If they say something starting with the wrong letter, "Oh, you can't go." It's fun to see how long it takes everyone to figure out the secret.

Famous Names:

You have to think of a famous person (or someone everyone has heard of), both first and last name and the next person has to think of a famous person with the first name beginning with the last letter of the last name of the person mentioned before. EX. Bill Clinton, Charles Manson, Melanie Griffith etc. The idea is to get the next person stumped. You can't repeat the same name, and if someone gets a double letter name (ex. Marilyn Monroe) it switches directions - lots of fun. One Up One Down."

The object of the game is to figure it out. Everyone sits around the fire and has a choice of three things to say; they can say "One up one down," "two up", or "two down." The way you know what to say is based on your hand/arm position. You say "one up one down" if one arm is up and the other is down, "two up" if both are above the waist, and "two down" if both are below the waist. It will take both younger campers and older campers a little while to figure out the "pattern." This game works best if only a few people know how it works. When no one gets the pattern, you can make your arm motions a little more obvious. Everyone will have a good time trying to figure out how the game works.

I Like Coffee But I Don't Like Tea.

The answer is that what you like are things that have double letters in them and the things

you don't like don't. I like trees but I don't like flowers of I like butterflies but I don't like moths.

Service Projects:

Your pack can combine the fun of a camp out with a Service Project like a tree plant or a Beach cleanup. Check with the park ranger for opportunities.

Rainy Day Stuff:

- Board Games. If you have access to something like a lodge (e.g. Silver Springs State park) have each family bring a their favorite board game and set up tables to play. Monopoly is a Bear Achievement (13-F).
- Dining Flies. It's a real drag eating in the rain. Erect a tarp to cover your picnic table.
- Rain? Who Cares? If it's warm, you can have a lot of fun out in the rain. Just be sure that everyone has dry clothes to change into when you get back to camp (especially dry socks).

Star Watch:

On clear moonless evenings, have a star watch. Find an older Scout or parent who is knowledgeable to lead it.

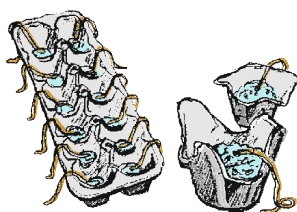
Belt Loop Extravaganza:

Select several activities from the Cub Scout Academics and Sports program that may be new to most boys. Recruit some parents to run each one. Award the belt loops to participants at your camp fire.

Night Bug Hunt:

As you walk along a dark trail, hold your flashlight against your forehead and shine it onto the shrubs and undergrowth several yards ahead of you. With a bit of luck, you will see the light reflected from the eyes of some of the creatures lurking there. Spiders especially are easily spotted. Don't try this after a rain because drops of water on the leaves form little lenses that reflect light.

Fire Starters - Egg Carton Fire Starters:



Melt the paraffin (in a double boiler), put dryer lint or wood chips or sawdust into the egg carton cups, and then pour the paraffin over the wood, filling up the cup. Then we just rip off fire starter cubes as needed.

I tried the lint idea last night. I have a better idea. Use cotton balls or pads. They catch easier, are cleaner and less messy than lint and wax.

We also teach not to use lint from colored fabrics, since a few people are sensitive to the dyes (one guy got sent to the hospital because of a reaction to the fumes). Granted this is VERY rare, but it's a big caution.

I prefer using sawdust and paraffin, as mentioned earlier. I also have success with COTTON balls rubbed with petroleum jelly. You can store a ton of these squished up in a film canister. (Make that a million and two! uses...) When ready to use, pull out one jellied cotton ball, pull it apart (get that air into those fibers!), and use it as fire starter.

My son made a bunch of them one time from the balsa wood shavings I brought home from Roundtable when we made Space Derby rockets. (By the way potato peelers work great on balsa wood!)

CAMP SONGS

What's a camp fire without songs? Check to see who can bring and play a guitar or lead some great old song like Allouette or There's a Hole in the Bucket.