

March Cub Scout Roundtable

Campfire and Scout's Own activities.

With warmer weather approaching, packs are gearing up to take part in their own outdoor camping excursions. Come and learn how to put on exciting campfire and Scout's Own religious events.

One of the most iconic and memorable experiences of every Scouting career is a campfire. There is nothing better than relaxing or being entertained in front of an open fire after a long day of fun and adventure. The smell, taste, and atmosphere of a campfire can be enthralling and unleash some long remembered experiences of our ancestors past.

Campfires can be fun, exciting, scary, inspirational, reverent, patriotic, or relaxing, it is all a matter of program and program planning. Always think about what your Scouts will want at the close of their day. Are they tired? Have you just finished a fifteen-mile death march? Are you dealing with a behavior problem within the unit? Is it a patriotic holiday? These are all questions that will help you frame the background of what your campfire program might encompass.

Most campfire programs function on a bell curve. An easy reminder is that the program should act like the fire when it is first lit it takes a while to fully light. Then it blazes brightly and as fuel is consumed it slowly fades to embers. It takes a few more low energy skits and activities to fire people up to do riotous songs and yells. Eventually the campfire hits the peak of silliness with skits and stunts. Finally each campfire has a digression with slower theatrics, songs and then a thoughtful reflection and/or story. This prepares everybody to head off to bed for the evening with something poignant on his or her minds.

Andrew's Campfire tips:

- If you are on stage you control the audience, never ask the audience if they want to do something. If you ask a group of Cub Scouts, "Who wants to sing a silly song?" You are probably not going to get much. Try, "We are going to sing a silly song."
- Avoid profanity, lewd jokes, potty humor, water or food for props
- Try to have the boys practice their skits, nothing worse than ruining the punch line of a joke or forgetting ones lines
- Make sure that the fire is built appropriately with adequate light, heat, not too much smoke etc.
- Make sure that the performers are facing the audience and projecting as they speak. No one likes to be unable to hear what is going on.
- Look online for skits, songs, and stunts, often times there are oldies but goodies but many times new material is appreciated

The twelfth point of the Scout law is that a Scout is reverent. “A Scout is reverent toward God. He is faithful in **his** religious duties. He respects the beliefs of others. I have always taken away a lot from the few sentences above. Scouting beliefs that boys and leaders should be faithful in their religious duties. This leaves the individual to define what these duties might or will be. We believe that Scouts should respect the beliefs of others. This is much different than the notion of tolerance that is often referenced in regard to understanding others religious beliefs. At this point I will get off my soap box.

A Scouts Own service is a great way to honor the Sabbath, or give thanks for a great weekend campout, or safe journey. Aside from singing songs, prayer, poetry, or and inspirational themed reflection another great practice is something called “thorns and roses.” This is a practice where everyone gets to reflect on the trip that they participated in. While in a circle facing each other. Each person shares a thorn, something that hurt or they did not like, a rose, something beautiful that they enjoyed, or a bud something they are looking forward to.

Selecting New Leadership

As packs begin the last portion of their scouting years, it is time to begin looking forward to next year’s leaders. Come and learn how to select and ASK individuals to assume leadership roles for the next scouting year.

The first part of finding new leaders is being aware of the skills that you have in front of you. The best way to do this is a parent talent survey. Lurking in every family is a cool hobby or person with a strong interest or skill.

Once you have identified what skills you have it is the start of fantasy football. This is just like constructing the best team you can have and building it over time. People age out people move on but it is in constant flux. You are constantly building your team and trading and moving people around. You have to train each rookie and slowly as they perform you give them larger and larger play time and more and more involvement. Recruiting adult volunteers is a constant and ongoing process. One of the first things I ask any volunteer is who their replacement will be? As much as possible we should try no to be a person dependant organization. Far to often Packs and Troops fail because one person is shouldering all of the work and has to leave at some unexpected juncture.

Core Value ideas – Faith

Get great ideas to help you produce exciting activities to promote our core value of Faith throughout the month of April, including information on Cub Scout religious awards.