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SPECIAL PACK ACTIVITIES

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In this chapter you'll find a broad assortment of time-tested special events that dens and packs have used successfully. Some are indoor activities, others are outdoor activities; some are suitable for the summer, some for winter, and others can be used any time of the year.

Many of the activities offer possibilities for Cub Scout advancement. It is important that you take advantage of these opportunities so that boys will not only have fun but also have a chance to learn and advance in rank.

Most of the activities require a minimum of materials and equipment. Even though they are simple and within the capabilities of Cub Scout-age boys, all require some advanced preparation on your part to be completely successful.

Planning Special Events

When planning a special activity, consider the task at hand and follow these guidelines as you evaluate your needs and resources:

Objective: Why are we having the activity? Does it help to achieve the purposes of Cub Scouting?

Leadership: Adequate adult leadership is a "must." For major pack activities, the pack committee usually appoints a chair and recruits members of an event committee to carry out the various responsibilities.

Facility: What type of facility is needed? Can the event be held in the regular pack meeting place? Is it an outdoor activity? Are reservations necessary? Will there be a charge for the facility?

Physical Arrangements: What type of seating arrangement is needed? How much space is available? If it is outdoors, what is available, and what do we need to provide?

Schedule: A written schedule or program will help the event run smoothly. When will the activity be held? What time does it begin? Who does what and when? What time does it end? And of course, let all pack families know the schedule.

Alternatives: Plan for backup leadership to fill in for emergencies. If it is an outdoor activity, have a backup plan in case of adverse weather conditions.

Public Relations: Be sure that all pack families know about the activity. Use word of mouth in your den meetings, and put an article in your pack/den newsletter. Could the event be publicized in local newspapers and other media?

Rules: For competitive events, establish clear and simple rules that everyone can understand. Be sure everyone knows the rules in advance. This will save many disagreements and help prevent hard feelings.

Judging and Awards: Any special pack activity that takes the place of a regular pack meeting should include advancement awards so that boys are recognized promptly. If it is a competitive activity, be sure that each boy receives something for participating. You should ask: "How and when should these awards be given and what type of awards will be used? Who will do the judging?" Answer these questions ahead of time.

Health and Safety: The plan should include adequate supervision and ensure the proper use of equipment. A harmless object can become dangerous when used in the wrong way. Take the necessary measures to ensure the health and safety of the boys and others taking part. Read the BSA publication *Guide to Safe Scouting* and keep it on hand for all events.

Materials and Equipment: What materials and equipment are needed? Who will provide them? Can you get donations? Check the Family Talent Surveys for resources among family members.

Finances: Estimate the cost of the activity, if any. Will the pack budget cover the expenses? If not, how will costs be covered?

Registration and Check-In Procedure: Most competitive events require some type of check-in procedure. How will it be done, and who is responsible?

Transportation: Will transportation be needed? Will each family provide its own transportation? If not, what arrangements need to be made? Are tour permits or site licenses needed?

Countdown: Does everyone involved know what is expected? Remember the secret word of Cub Scouting: KISMIF—*Keep It Simple, Make It Fun.*

BACK-DATED PLANNING CALENDAR

To ensure that nothing important is overlooked, you should develop a backdated planning calendar for each special event, such as the one shown here. List all of the steps that need to be completed before the activity, with a target date for the completion of each phase of the planning.

Six months before	Select event chair and cochair.
Five months before	Recruit event committee.
Four months before	Make a detailed, written plan with specific assignments.
Three months before	Order materials and awards. Make arrangements for the facility.
Two months before	Begin publicizing in the pack. Contact media for publicity.
One month before	Make announcement at a pack meeting, and contact other pack families. Contact media for publicity again.
Two weeks before	Make a last-minute check on materials, equipment, and the facility.
Event	Arrive early and set up if necessary. Hold the event. Have fun!
One week after	Evaluate the success of the event. Thank everyone who helped.

CALL ON THE SECOND TEAM

When planning and conducting special pack activities, don't forget to use your second team, that is, Cub Scout parents and other adults. This is a good way to get pack families to participate, to strengthen the pack, and to build spirit.

At the pack's annual planning conference, select a chair and cochair for each special activity, and identify other adults who would like to help. This way, the leadership is identified early so planning can begin early. The chair and cochair work together, so if the chair is unexpectedly out of town, the plans can continue uninterrupted.

Anniversary Week Activities

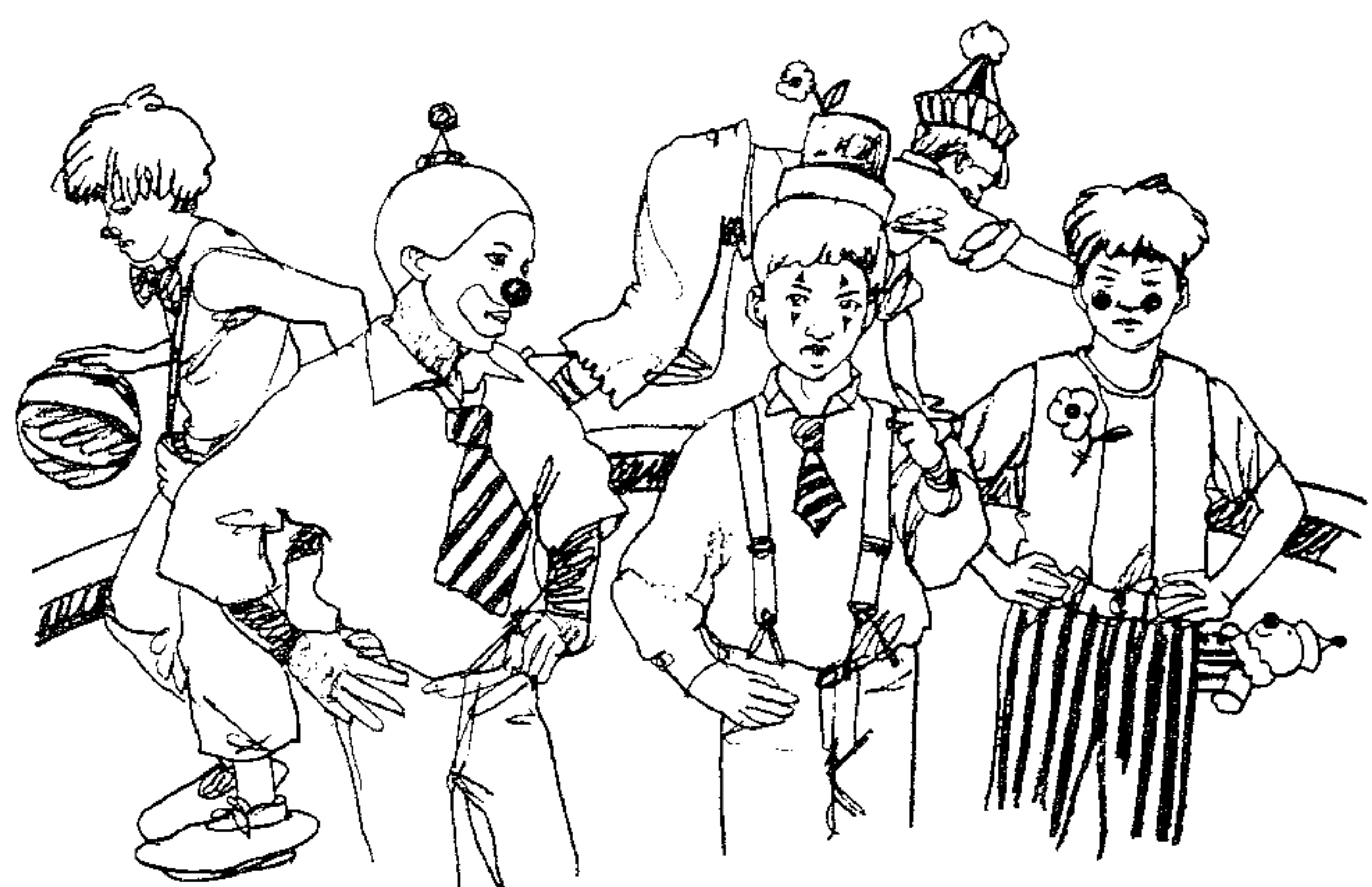
Every February, beginning on Sunday of the week that includes February 8, the Boy Scouts of America celebrates its anniversary. BSA was incorporated February 8, 1910. February is also the birth month of Scouting's founder Lord Robert Baden-Powell. During anniversary week, Scouting units are encouraged to conduct rededication ceremonies and to demonstrate Scouting's purposeful activities.

Religious Services: Many packs attend church or synagogue in uniform on Scout Sunday or Scout Sabbath. In some churches and synagogues, Cub Scouts take part in the services.

Civic Activities: Often, local government, school districts, and fraternal organizations will allow Cub Scout packs to present a flag ceremony at the openings of their meetings. This is especially appropriate during anniversary week.

Wear the Uniform: Encourage your Cub Scouts to wear their uniforms to school one day during Scouting Anniversary Week. This might be on their regular den meeting day or any other day during the week.

Cub Scouting Demonstrations: One of the best ways to mark Scouting Anniversary Week is with a live demonstration. This could be held after school or all day Saturday wherever there is plenty of pedestrian traffic (e.g., a shopping center, vacant lot, centrally located park, library, or even a large store display window). Show Cub Scouting in action—boys racing pinewood derby cars, playing games, staging skits or puppet shows. Webelos Scouts could have displays and give demonstrations of activity badge projects. Be sure to have a big sign and handouts identifying your chartered organization and unit. Include the name and phone number of a leader who can be contacted for information about joining.



Stage a skit for a Cub Scouting demonstration during Scouting Anniversary Week. Cub Scout clowns could perform various feats of skill (Wolf Achievement 1).

Good Turns: Do a Good Turn for the pack's chartered organization—or for your community. Think of a worthwhile project that involves parents and other family members as well as Cub Scouts.

Displays: Window displays will attract attention to your pack. Make arrangements early with a public library, your chartered organization, or a store to use a display area. A window display might be tied to a particular Cub Scouting theme, or it could cover the pack's activities for a whole year. Decorate with banners, flags, streamers, etc. to make the display colorful and attractive. Be sure to have a sign identifying the pack and its chartered organization, with the name and phone number of a leader who can be contacted for more information. Put your display up on time and remove it on time. Be sure to send a letter of thanks.

World Friendship Fund: Plan and get approval from your council and pack committee for a pack money-earning project to raise funds to donate to the World Friendship Fund. This BSA-administered fund provides material help to Scouts and Scouters around the world. Ask your local district or council for more information.

The Blue and Gold Banquet

Most Cub Scouts celebrate Scouting Anniversary Week with a birthday party called the blue and gold banquet. In nearly all packs, the annual blue and gold banquet, which is often the pack meeting for February, is the highlight of the year. It brings families together for an evening of fun and inspiration.



The purpose of the blue and gold banquet is to celebrate, recognize, and inspire. Recognize Cub Scouts, pack leaders, and other adults involved in Scouting at this event by presenting advancement awards, honors, certificates—or with just a hearty round of applause for service to the pack.

PLANNING THE PROGRAM

Early planning is necessary if the program is to be successful. The pack committee should recruit a banquet chair, who in turn selects others to carry out the responsibilities of the program. The committee reserves the location, makes arrangements for the banquet, sends out special invitations, decides on the theme, and takes care of the housekeeping. The committee should try to include as many people as possible in the planning. The committee should also keep in touch with the pack committee by attending the monthly pack committee meetings. Good communication is essential for a successful blue and gold banquet.

Suggested Timetable

Four months before: Select blue and gold chair and committee. Decide on the date, time, place, theme, and type of meal for the event. Reserve the location.

Three months before: Plan the program. The banquet committee reports progress and details to the pack committee.

Two months before: Determine the guest list, and mail invitations. (Include an RSVP card in the invitations so you can accurately plan for the amount of food and space required.) Boys begin work on decorations and presentations. The banquet committee reports progress to pack committee.

One month before: Boys continue work on decorations and presentations; recheck facilities; print the program. The banquet committee reports to the pack committee.

Two weeks before: Turn in award applications, complete decorations, verify RSVP counts and food preparation.

Banquet day: Set up the room, ENJOY THE BANQUET, clean up—and then relax after a job well done!

During the days after: Blue and gold committee writes a report that includes suggestions to help make the next year's blue and gold banquet even better.

THE BANQUET

The banquet may be served in a variety of ways. Your pack might choose to have dinner catered or in a restaurant. Many packs have a blue and gold dessert or ice cream social. Most often, the blue and gold banquet is a family potluck. Surprising as it may seem, the type of dinner isn't very important; it is the Cub Scouting that happens in making the event a time of family and fellowship that really counts.

If your pack decides to have a meal, ask yourself what type of meal best serves your pack. If your plan includes a potluck, be sure to have a variety of foods. One way to do this is to assign types of food by last name, for instance, A–E: salads and vegetable dishes; F–K: appetizers and breads; L–P: main dishes; Q–T: plates, beverages, and condiments; and R–Z: desserts. Another way is to divide food responsibilities by den, such that Den 1 brings salads, Den 2 brings main dishes, etc. Sometimes, the pack will provide the paper products and utensils or a large sheet cake for dessert.

It's important to make sure there is enough food for everyone. A good guideline for your potluck dish is to bring enough to serve your family plus two.

Finally, since this is a banquet for the boys, try to serve foods that will please them—the kind of things *they* enjoy and would choose themselves.

Blue and Gold Mints

Ingredients:

- 6 T. margarine or butter**
- 2 t. peppermint extract**
- 3 lb. powdered sugar**
- 7 T. water (color half with blue and the other half with yellow food coloring)**
- Dash of salt**
- Granulated sugar**

1. Cream the margarine or butter. Add flavoring and salt.
2. Divide into two batches. Add colored water to each batch.
3. Add 1 lb. powdered sugar to each batch. Blend with a mixer, and then knead another half-pound of sugar into each batch.
4. Shape into small balls and roll in granulated sugar.
5. Press into molds or roll out to desired thickness and cut or shape mints. Let the mints dry on a cookie sheet in the refrigerator. Store in a covered tin or airtight box to prevent hardening.

FINANCING

How will the pack pay for the banquet? Most packs include it in their annual budget and cover any costs through their regular money-earning projects. Your pack may charge for dinner, especially if it is catered (be absolutely certain *every* family feels it can afford to attend), or the chartered organization might be able to provide it as a gift to the pack. If there are any costs for the family, collect the money in advance.

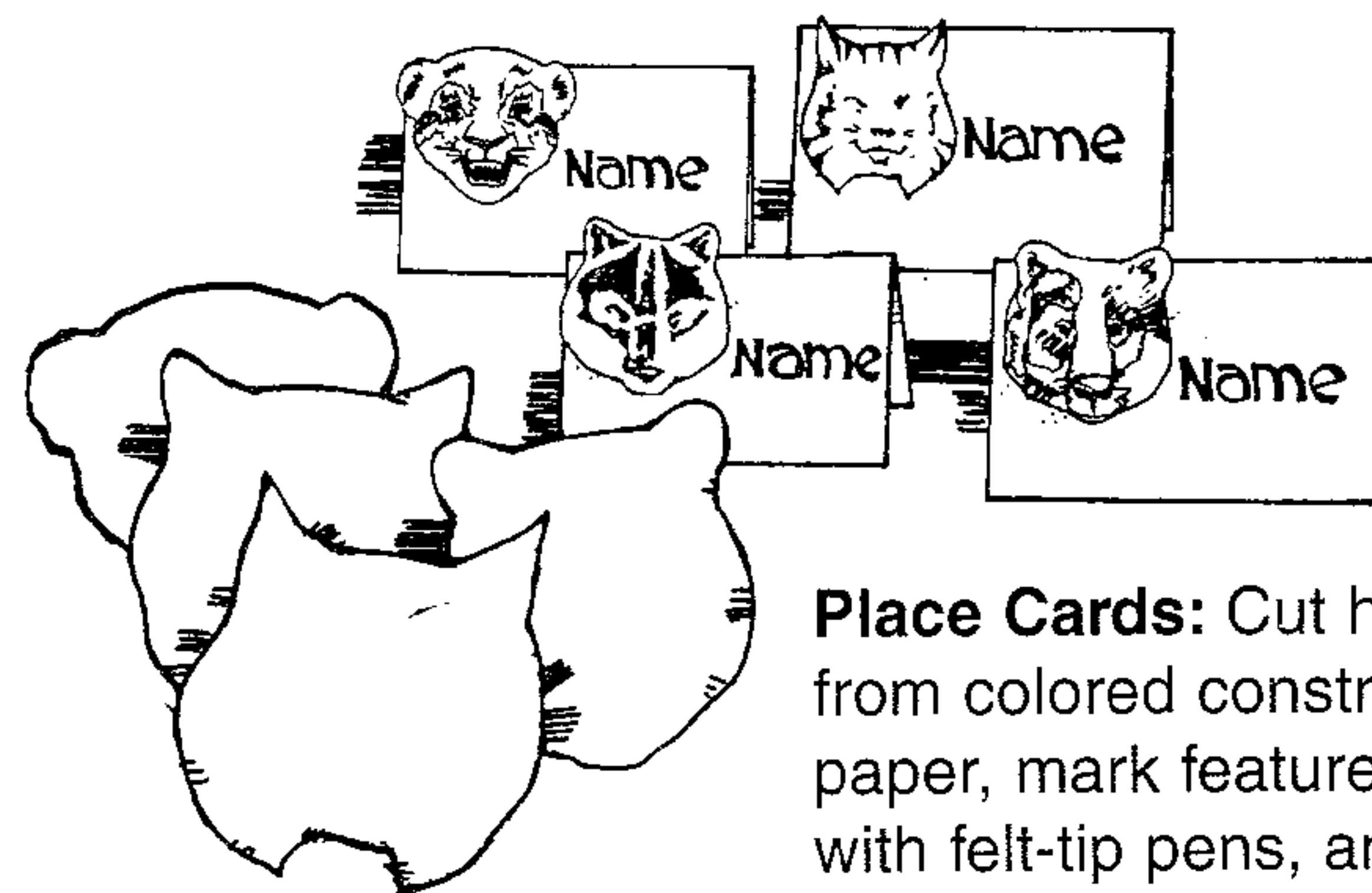
THE FACILITY

Secure a suitable facility *at least* six weeks in advance—the earlier, the better. The number of people attending and the serving arrangement will determine the space you need. A good way to estimate the number attending is to multiply the number of boys by three. This will help you decide how large the facility should be. The location could be a school cafeteria, church meeting room, or large room at a civic center, town hall, restaurant, or cafeteria.

Consider these things: rental fee, if any; seating capacity and number of tables available; kitchen availability, if needed; adequate parking space; convenient restrooms; and accessibility for people with disabilities. You will need to find out whether special equipment is available, such as a public-address system, speaker's stand, etc., and whether you need to secure permission to use any special equipment.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS AND IDEAS

- Be sure that boys are involved in the banquet preparations. For instance, dens can provide their own table decorations. Boys can make a centerpiece, place mats, place cards, napkin rings, and nut cups.



Place Cards: Cut heads from colored construction paper, mark features with felt-tip pens, and glue to folded cards. Or, use stickers.

- Enlist the help of extra family members specifically for the event. For instance, a parent who enjoys computers could make the programs. Use the Family Talent Survey to find adults with "hidden" talents.

THE PROGRAM

One thing that can help guide you in your program planning is having a theme for your blue and gold banquet. A theme gives the boys an emphasis around which they can build their invitations and decorations. For instance, a “Back to the Future” theme could include place cards shaped like spaceships; an “Under the Big Top” theme invites the possibility of animal cookies decorating the dessert. Check *Cub Scout Program Helps*, where you will find the monthly theme suggested by the BSA. You will also find many program ideas to help make your blue and gold banquet special.

The banquet program must appeal to boys as well as adults. The evening can be conducted as a regular pack meeting (with songs, skits, stunts, and awards), or it can be something different and a little more special. Your pack may choose to bring in outside entertainment, such as a magician or storyteller, or have a video or slide presentation of the activities the pack participated in over the previous year. Choose a master of ceremonies who will keep the evening moving and enjoyable for all.

Include the following agenda items in the program. Move them around to suit the needs of your pack, and be sure to include applause and stunts to fill in the gaps. Try to keep the program time to no more than 1½ hours, not including mealtime.

Preopening or Gathering Period: Have displays and exhibits, as well as games or other activities to keep younger children and the Cub Scouts busy until the meal is served.

Opening Ceremony: This doesn’t need to be lengthy or elaborate, but it does need to include the boys.

Invocation: This is one way to incorporate duty to God into the program. The Cub Scouts, a pack leader, a religious leader, or someone from your chartered organization can give an opening prayer or thought. Be sure the invocation is nonsectarian.

Dinner: Allow sufficient time for everyone to enjoy the meal. If it is served as a buffet or potluck, try multiple service lines with food in the middle of the tables. Tiger Cubs usually eat the least so you may want to let them eat first after honored guests. Let the others eat by ranks—Wolf, Bear, Webelos—or randomly from a drawing or a set rotation. Some packs put numbers on the tables and draw out one or two tables every time the serving line gets small.

Welcome and Introductions: The master of ceremonies for the night, often the Cubmaster, should recognize pack leaders and special guests.

Greeting for the Head of the Chartered Organization: Give the chartered organization head and/or representative a moment to tell who he/she is and why he/she helps the pack. This is an ideal time to present the pack charter renewal certificate, if available.

Songs: Keep songs light, simple, lively, and not overly long. Provide song sheets so everyone can participate. Familiar tunes work best.

Skits, Stunts, and Entertainment: Entertainment from within the pack can’t go wrong. The dens will have had plenty of time to rehearse. If you use entertainment from outside the pack, make sure it is suited to the crowd and is family entertainment appropriate for all ages.

Advancement Award Ceremony: Make this a memorable moment. This is often the most important part of the evening for many of the boys and families.

Webelos Graduation Ceremony: If possible, involve Boy Scouts and Scouters from the troops the Webelos Scouts are joining. If your boys are bridging and/or receiving the Arrow of Light, consider inviting an Order of the Arrow ceremony team to participate (contact your district executive for details).

Recognition of Adult Leaders: Present certificates and awards to all the people who have helped make the pack “go.” Include pack leaders, parents, and special guests. Make sure the awards are positive and appropriate. This is the time to make everyone feel good about his/her service to the pack and inspire others to volunteer.

Friends of Scouting Presentation: Many packs use the blue and gold banquet as an opportunity to kick off the annual Friends of Scouting (FOS) fund-raiser. This council fund-raiser helps provide money for your council’s annual operating budget. Check with your local district or council to schedule a Friends of Scouting presentation.

Closing Ceremony: Be a little more serious with the closing ceremony, but don’t put a damper on the evening. Try using an inspirational or patriotic closing.

Announcements, Thank You, and Good-bye: This is the time to mention upcoming events and to thank all the families and friends for attending. Most people will be ready to leave so keep comments short and to the point. Wish everyone a good night and a safe journey home.

Cleanup: Cleanup is a job for everyone. A Scout always leaves a place as clean as or cleaner than the way he found it!

BLUE AND GOLD GRACE AND INVOCATIONS

Health and Strength

(Sing grace)

For health and strength
And daily bread
We praise thy name, O Lord.

Singing Grace

Tune: "Michael Row the Boat Ashore"

God is great and God is good,
Al-le-lu-ia.
Let us thank him for our food,
Al-le-lu-ia.
By his hand, we all are fed,
Al-le-lu-ia.
Thank you, Lord, for our daily bread,
Al-le-lu-ia.

Simple Grace

Tune: "Frère Jacques"

Our Creator, Our Creator,
Once again, once again,
We shall ask your blessing,
We shall ask your blessing,
Amen. Amen.

Philmont Grace

(Spoken)

For food, for raiment,
For life, for opportunity
For friendship and fellowship,
We thank thee, O Lord.

Cub Scout Prayer

(Spoken)

O Lord, that I will do my best,
I come to you in prayer.
Help me to help others every day,
And teach me to be fair.
To honor my mother and father,
And to obey the Cub Scout Law, too.
This I ask that I may be
A loyal Cub Scout true. Amen.

BLUE AND GOLD CEREMONIES

The Light of Scouting's History

Personnel: Four readers (or prerecord narration on tape)

Equipment: Flashlight, four candles on a table

Setting: The room is completely darkened except for the flashlight held by the first reader, who passes it to the next reader, etc.

FIRST READER: In 1907, when Lord Robert Baden-Powell conducted an experimental camp for boys on Brownsea Island in England, the Scouting movement began as a tiny spark of light. (*Lights the first candle.*)

SECOND READER: On February 8, 1910, the Boy Scouts of America was born when William D. Boyce filed incorporation papers in Washington, D.C. (*Lights the second candle with the first.*)

THIRD READER: On June 15, 1916, the Boy Scouts of America was granted a federal charter by Congress. This was also the year when Baden-Powell introduced Wolf Cubbing in Europe. Fourteen years later, Cub Scouting began officially in the United States. (*Lights the third candle with the second.*)

FOURTH READER (lighting the fourth candle with the third): Just as the light in this room has grown as it was passed from one candle to the next, so the Scouting movement grew throughout the world. Today, it has millions of members in hundreds of countries. Let us take this light and spread it outward to others through our goodwill.

Will all Cub Scouts and former Cub Scouts please rise and repeat with me the Cub Scout Promise? (*Lead the Promise.*) Will everyone now please rise and repeat the Pledge of Allegiance?

The Story of the Blue and Gold

Personnel: Eight Cub Scouts

Equipment: Blue flannel board, cards for flannel board (TRUTH, STEADFAST LOYALTY, SPIRITUALITY, WARM SUNLIGHT, GOOD CHEER, HAPPINESS), yellow sun for flannel board

CUB SCOUT 1: Back in the good ol' days, the waving of school colors gave people a feeling of school pride and loyalty. Today, the blue and gold of Cub Scouting helps to build this spirit among Cub Scouts.

CUB SCOUT 2 (pointing to blue flannel board): The blue reminds us of the sky above. It stands for truth, spirituality, and steadfast loyalty.

CUB SCOUT 3 (placing the “Truth” card in the upper left corner of the board): Truth means we must always be honest.

CUB SCOUT 4 (placing the “Spirituality” card in the upper right corner): Spirituality means being concerned with and sensitive to religious values.

CUB SCOUT 5 (placing the “Steadfast Loyalty” card across the bottom): Steadfast loyalty means being faithful and loyal to God, country, and your fellow human beings.

CUB SCOUT 6 (placing the sun in the center of the board): The gold stands for the warm sunlight. (*Places the “Warm Sunlight” card across the top of the sun.*)

CUB SCOUT 7: Gold also stands for good cheer and happiness. We always feel better when the sun is shining, and so will those to whom we give goodwill. (*Places the “Good Cheer” and “Happiness” cards on each side of the sun.*)

CUB SCOUT 8: May the meaning of the blue and gold colors make us remember our Cub Scout ideals: the Cub Scout Promise and the Law of the Pack.

Blue and Gold Opening Ceremony

Print in large bold letters, one letter per sheet, B-L-U-E A-N-D G-O-L-D. Print the following script on the back of each card per page for Cub Scouts to read.

B is for BOYS—Tiger Cubs, Bobcats, Wolves, Bears, and Webelos Scouts.

L is for LEADER—The Cubmaster who guides us.

U is for UNDERSTANDING—We learn to help others.

E is for EXCELLENCE—We try to Do Our Best.

A is for ANNIVERSARY—Cub Scouting’s [number] year.

N is for NEIGHBORHOOD—Where Cub Scout dens meet each week.

D is for DEN CHIEFS—Boy Scouts who help us in many ways.

G is for GOALS—For which Cub Scouting stands.

O is for OPPORTUNITY—For boys to learn and do fun and exciting new things.

L is for LIBERTY—In our country’s great past and in the years to come.

D is for DEN LEADERS—Who love us and help us.

Closing Thought

NARRATOR: Lord Baden-Powell, the founder of Scouting, wrote: “While you are living your life on earth, try to do something good which may remain after you.

“One writer says: ‘I often think that when the sun goes down the world is hidden by a big blanket from the light of heaven, but the stars are little holes pierced in that blanket by those who have done good deeds in this world. The stars are not all the same size; some are big, some are little, and some men have done great deeds and others have done small deeds, but they have made their hole in the blanket by doing good before they went to heaven.’

“Try to make your hole in the blanket by good work while you are on earth. It is something to *be* good, but it is far better to *do* good.”

Think of Baden-Powell’s words when you promise to help other people.

Ideas for Banquet

Advancement Ceremonies

- Make a large papier-mâché birthday cake. (See “Crafts.”) Use whipped soapsuds to ice the cake. Before soapsuds harden, insert candles (one for each year). Candles can be lit before the awards presentation and blown out after the ceremony.
- Insert boys’ award into birthday balloons (orange for Tiger Cubs, yellow for Wolves, blue for Bears, and red for Webelos Scouts) before blowing them up. Write each boy’s name on the outside of his balloon with a marker. All boys pop them at once.
- Package individual awards in small boxes wrapped in blue paper and tied with gold ribbons. Ask boys to wait until all awards have been presented before opening their package. Then, while boys open their packages, the rest of the pack sings “Happy Birthday.”
- For more ceremony ideas, see *Cub Scout Ceremonies for Dens and Packs*.

BLUE AND GOLD SKITS

The Unknown Scout

Personnel: Cub Scout dressed as William D. Boyce, Cub Scout dressed as old-style Boy Scout, narrator

NARRATOR: It’s a foggy night in London. The year is 1909. Mr. William D. Boyce, an American publisher and philanthropist, is lost. (*As the curtain opens, Boyce is onstage. He wanders around stage as if looking for a house number. He comes to a street light and peers at a slip of paper in his hand.*)

BOYCE: I don't think I can find my way in this fog. (A Scout comes onstage.)

SCOUT: May I help you, sir?

BOYCE: I'm looking for this address. Can you tell me where to find it? (Shows him the slip of paper.)

SCOUT: Yes, I can. I'll take you there (They walk to the other side of the stage.)

SCOUT (pointing): There you are, sir.

BOYCE: Thank you very much! And here you go, for helping me. (Pretends to offer him money.)

SCOUT: Thank you, sir. But I can't accept money. I'm a Scout, and this is my Good Turn. (The Scout waves, walks across stage, and exits. Boyce exits on other side.)

NARRATOR: Mr. Boyce was so impressed with this Scout that he found out more about the Scouting movement in England. He brought back to America a suitcase full of ideas and information. He incorporated the Boy Scouts of America on February 8, 1910. The Boy Scouts of America grew by leaps and bounds. Congress granted a federal charter in 1916—an honor given to only a few organizations. Today, Scouting is a world brotherhood, bound together by common ideals. Please stand and repeat with me the Cub Scout Promise.

Happy Birthday to Us!

Equipment: "Birthday cake" made out of a cardboard box big enough for a small boy to hide inside, a note of paper on the top

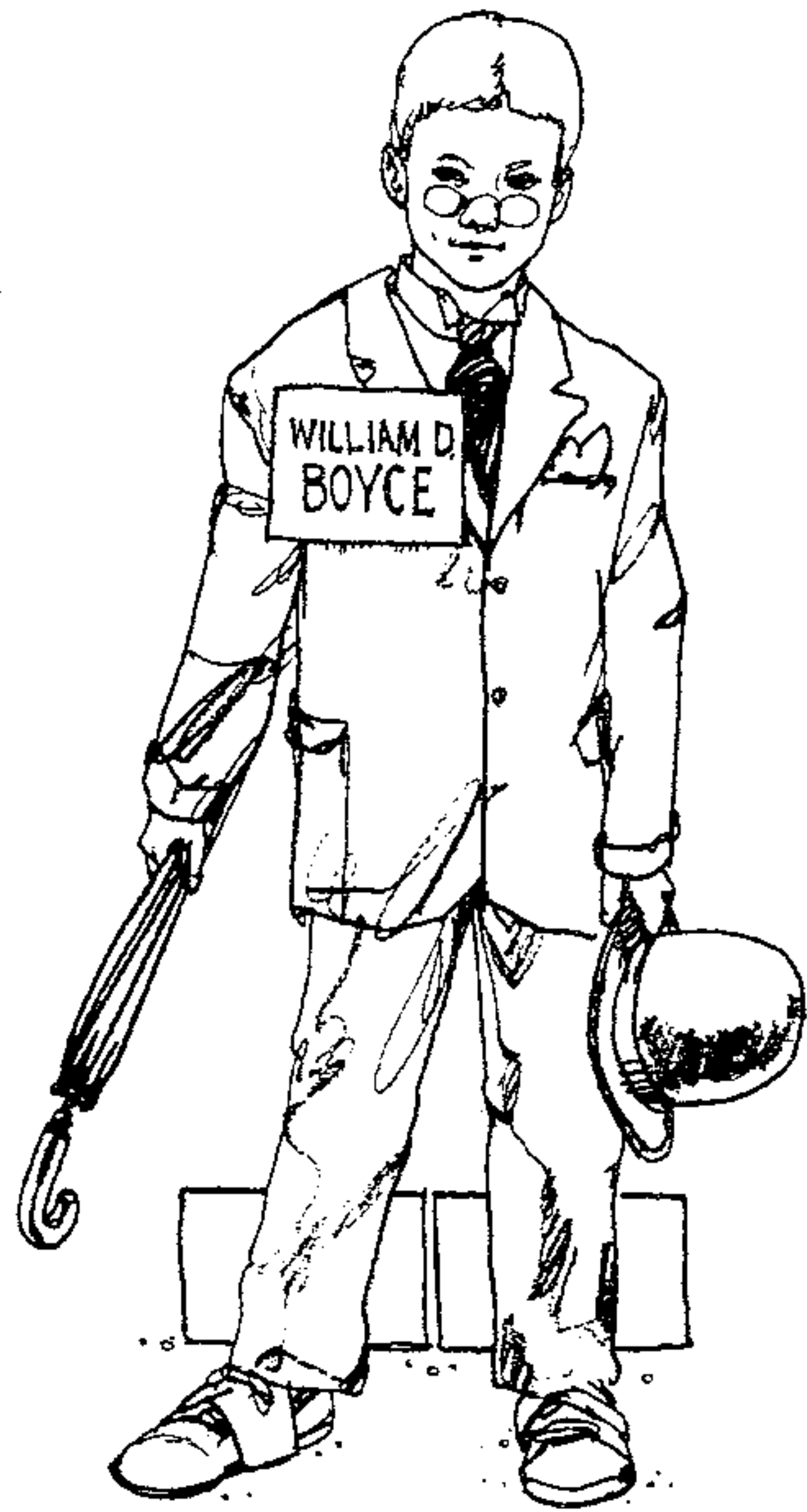
Personnel: Six Cub Scouts, one hidden in the cake

Setting: Five Cub Scouts come onstage and gather around the huge cake.

CUB SCOUT 1: Well, here we are, but where's Matt?

CUB SCOUT 2: It's just like him to invite us to a surprise party and then not be here!

CUB SCOUT 3: Does anybody know who's birthday it is anyway?



CUB SCOUT 4: It's not mine. (Other boys shake their heads.)

CUB SCOUT 5: Who cares? Here's a big cake, so at least we'll all get lots of it!

CUB SCOUT 1: No kidding! It's big enough to feed an army!

CUB SCOUT 2: Not with you around! I've seen you eat snacks at our den meetings!

CUB SCOUT 1: I can't help it—I'm a growing boy. The Law of the Pack says we should grow.

CUB SCOUT 3: Yeah, but I think we're supposed to grow up, not out!

CUB SCOUT 4: Hey look! Here's a note. (Picks up the note.)

CUB SCOUT 5: Read it—maybe it will explain what this is all about.

CUB SCOUT 4 (reading note): We're a group of Cub Scouts true, it's anniversary week, so let's all sing...

HIDDEN CUB SCOUT (jumping out of the cake): HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US! (Everybody joins in singing "Happy birthday to us, Happy birthday to us, Happy birthday to Scouting, Happy birthday to us!")



Autumn Harvest Festival

Plan a full day of fall family fun down on the farm with an autumn harvest festival. Although everyone will have a great time, it will be especially enjoyable for Cub Scouts and families who are accustomed to city living.

In preparing for this fall frolic, follow the guidelines for planning special pack activities (see page 6-1). If you know someone who owns an operating farm or ranch, you have a head start on this activity. If not, contact the county agricultural extension office for help in locating a farm that you might be able to visit. If your area doesn't have access to a working farm, you can carry out your autumn harvest activities at a public park.

The resources available to you will determine your activities. Several suggestions are included here. The pack committee chosen to oversee the event will be able to come up with lots more. Involve as many parents and other adults as possible in planning and leading the events. If the group is large, you may need to run several activities at the same time. If your pack needs to travel for the event, be sure to file the appropriate tour permit. You will also find that carpooling can help cut down on costs.

Suggested Activities

- Take a tour of the farm and learn about the daily activities of the people who live there.
- Carve pumpkins or draw faces on them or apples.
- Bob for apples. (If you have safety concerns, try tying the fruit on strings and suspending them from above rather than having a traditional apple bob in a washtub.)



- Run a turkey feather relay.
- Have a pie-eating contest.
- Have a corn-shucking contest.
- Call some hogs.
- Run a three-legged race.
- Play tug-of-war.
- Take a hayride.
- Have a wiener and corn roast or a barbecue.
- Make homemade ice cream with old-fashioned hand-cranked freezers.

Don't forget to write thank-you notes to the farm's owners, and send along some pictures of your event if you took some.

PUMPKIN-CARVING OR -DRAWING CONTEST

Provide a pumpkin for each child. If carving, children should use utensils made for carving pumpkins. Carving utensils may have a special handle for smaller hands to grip, but even so, adequate supervision is required.

Here are some carving tips:

1. Cut a hole in the top of the pumpkin angled inward so you can use the cutout as a lid.
2. Make the hole large enough to scoop out all the pulp and seeds.
3. Draw a face on the pumpkin with a pencil for cutting.
4. As you cut out features, smaller pieces such as teeth or ears can be held on with toothpicks.

If carving is inappropriate for your pack, boys can draw faces on pumpkins or apples with markers. If appropriate, award prizes for the scariest, funniest, most unusual, looks most like the Cubmaster, etc.

TURKEY FEATHER RELAY

Divide the group into teams. The first player on each team holds a long turkey feather. On a signal, each throws his feather javelin style toward a finish line. As soon as it lands, he runs to it, picks it up, and throws it again. When the feather crosses the finish line, he picks it up, runs back, and hands it to his next teammate, who repeats the action.

