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CUB SCOUT PROGRAM: ALLOWAT MEET AKELA

Session Length: 50 Minutes

Purpose:

The new strategic plan for the Order of the Arrow calls for the lodges to become actively involved in promoting the Cub Scout camping program and improving the quality of Webelos transitions. This session is written to provide lodge leaders with the tool necessary for executing this portion of the strategic plan.



Learning objectives:

- Acquaint lodge leaders with the Cub Scout program, especially camping and advancement
- Inform lodge leaders of the camping abilities of Cub Scout leaders
- Provide lodge leaders with venues they can use to become involved in the Cub Scout program
- Provide lodge leaders with resources needed to promote Cub Scout camping
- Provide lodge leaders with resources to conduct Webelos Crossover and Arrow of Light ceremonies

Required Materials:

- Laptop computer and data projector
- Screen
- Flipchart
- Markers
- Easel
- TV / VCR
- 'The Wrong Guys' starring John Candy (1988)
- 'Sister Act' starring Whoopi Goldberg (1992)

TRAINER PREPARATION

Type of Trainer:

The trainers for this session should have a good working knowledge of the Order of the Arrow and the mechanics of the Cub Scout program. They should also be well versed in the Cub Scout camping program standards. It is suggested that the trainer have staffed Cub Scout resident camps, family encampments, or parent and son events. A thorough understanding of camp promotions is necessary. It is recommended that the trainers have a firm grasp of the Cub Scout advancement program and purpose of Webelos' Arrow of Light and Crossover Ceremonies.

SESSION NARRATIVE**Cub Scout Camping Program:****1. Skill Level:**

Cub Scout camping is very different from Boy Scout camping. When Boy Scouts go camping, each boy generally has his own equipment. He brings his backpack full of gear, has footwear and a sleeping bag appropriate to the conditions. He has skill sets that can make him comfortable in the outdoors.

Cub Scouts do not have those skills and generally do not have the necessary equipment. They run to Wal-Mart a day or two before the trip and buy a sleeping bag. The tent probably isn't waterproof. Cub Scouts also do not hike their gear in. The leader pulls the van up to the site, parks it for the weekend, and they unload their gear.

To emphasize the camping skills of Cub Scouts, show video clip from The Wrong Guys starring John Candy. The Cub Scout pack has reunited for a weekend adventure.

2. Who Goes Camping With Cub Scouts:**A. Leaders**

Boy Scouts have a 2 deep leadership requirement for all activities.

Cub Scout Leaders also must meet the two deep leadership requirements; however, for a Cub Scout to participate in a general camping event a parent or guardian must attend the event with him. For every youth, there is at least one adult present that is specifically responsible for him.

Not all Cub Scout leaders have outstanding camping skills, although several of the leaders are former scouts themselves. Going on an outing with their son may be their first venture ever into the out-of-doors. Many Cub Scout leaders are mothers who typically are not used to sleeping outside or using the restroom in a latrine. Cub Scout leaders have high enthusiasm and lots of questions.

In order for a pack to go camping, the adult planning the event must complete Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation (BALOO).

B. Families

Since mom may be going camping with her son, or mom and dad to meet the adult leadership requirements for the pack, family members are welcomed on most pack outings. Whereas, in Boy Scouts, there may only be one or two family camping trips a year. So little brother and sister may accompany the Cub Scout on his camping trips.

C. Camping Style

When Cub Scouts go camping it is a pack event. They do everything as a large group from cooking to participating in program.

Someone does all of the cooking for the entire group.

They travel in a herd in between program areas. Once they arrive at a program area, they may be the only group there. Unlike Boy Scout camping where each Scout will have a schedule that meets his own needs, Cub Scouts are scheduled for programming as an entire pack. In some instances, such as Cub Scout & Webelos Camp, they are broken down into dens.

3. Types of Cub Scout Camping:

A. Overnighters

1. Pack Overnighters

Pack Overnighters are pack-planned overnight events involving several families from the same pack. Packs can only camp on council-owned or council-approved facilities. The pack may plan its own age-appropriate activities or participate in a program that is available at the facility.

2. Parent and Son (aka Mom & Me, Dad & Lad, Parent and Pal etc.)

Parent and Sons are organized at the council level involve more than one pack. The council provides all elements of the outdoor experience. The council coordinates the staff, food service, housing, and programming.

Cub Scouts can only participate if their parent or guardian attends.

Council-wide Cub Scout events must meet the National Standards for Council Family Camping.

3. Family Encampments

Family Encampments are organized at a district level and involve more than one Pack. The district recruits the staff that supplies the program. Depending on the facilities, the district may also supply the housing. Normally, the Pack is responsible for meals.

4. Webelos Den Overnight Camping

The purpose of a Webelos Scout overnighter is to introduce the Scout to the basics of Boy Scout camping. The Webelos Leader should be well trained. Again, each scout is responsible to a specific adult.

Webelos dens are encouraged to visit Boy Scout district camping events. These visits should wet the boys' appetite for the adventures ahead. The Webelos den should not participate in Boy Scout program or compete against Boy Scout patrols, however many Districts provide their own Webelos-friendly activities. If the event is Boy Scout sponsored, Webelos Dens are often excluded from overnight stays. However, the Webelos dens are encouraged to spend the night with their host troops on most District and Council level events.

B. Resident Camping

1. Cub Scout Resident Camp

2. Webelos Resident Camp

Cub Scout & Webelos Resident Camp is organized by the council, theme oriented, and consists of at least 2 nights. Resident camping for Cub Scouting has program areas similar to Boy Scout camps where Wolves, Bears and Webelos may work on their achievements, badges and activity pins. Most camps have camp craft, nature, and aquatics, shooting sports,

fitness, craftsman, and nature area. Tiger Cubs may visit such camps but should not spend the night.

Each year the overall theme of the Cub Camp changes. Some examples of successful themes include, Knights of the Roundtable, Space adventure, Olympics, the Old West, Folk Lore. The program areas, campsites, and buildings are renamed and decorated to reflect the theme of the camp.

The program for the Scouts is set. There are specific activities for Wolf, Bear, Webelos 1 Den and Webelos 2 Den. In a sense, the program is packaged. Boy Scout camp is more a la carté. The boy has more choice and control in his schedule at Boy Scout camp.

The Webelos camp and program directors are Camp School certified.

Adult to youth ratios for Cub Scout & Webelos Resident Camps are established per Council. A typical ratio might be Wolves and Bears (3 youth to 1 adult) and Webelos scouts (5 youth to 1 adult), beyond the two deep leadership requirements. Tiger Cubs must always be with a parent or guardian at all times.

C. Cub Scout Day Camp

Day camps consist of 1- to 5- day programs at a council approved facility. Districts design programs for Tiger Cubs, Cub Scouts, and Webelos Scouts. Day camps take place during the daylight and early evening hours. Day camps do not contain any overnight activities.

4. Facilities

Cub Scouts require different facilities than Boy Scouts.

1. An increase in female leaders and parents causes Cub Scout facilities to have a large number of female designated restroom and shower facilities.
2. Since these overnights will probably be the first camping experience for the boy and his parents, we want the experience to be a good one and a "soft" one. Therefore, the best facilities like flush toilets; cabins, permanent tentage and indoor shower facilities should be made available to these Packs.
3. The facilities at your camp may need some adaptation in order to become more cub scout friendly. Helping to make sure the facilities are clean, neat, well stocked and in working order are very important to making that first camp experience a good one.

What can the Order of the Arrow do to support the Cub Scout camping program?

Just like the Order supports Boy Scout Camping, the Order can support Cub Scouting in the following ways:

1. Promote Cub Scout camping
2. Perform ceremonies at Arrow of Light banquets
3. Promote Webelos to Boy Scout transition
4. Staff Events
5. Promote Cub Scout advancement
6. Participate in Training

I. Promoting Cub Scout Camping

Draw from the audience ways in which the Order supports Boy Scout.

1. Financially
2. Promoting camping
3. Service projects
4. Staffing events
5. ASK - Mentoring

Which of these activities are appropriate to the support of Cub Scout Camping?

1. **Financially**
 - a. Pay for publication of Webelos / Cub Scout Resident camp leaders' guidebook
 - b. Pay for the Webelos / Cub Scout Resident camp informational dinner
 - c. Contribute to the development of a new thematic program area at the resident camp
2. **Promoting camping**
 - a. Develop a *Where to Go Cub Scouting?* Booklet for your council. Include a listing of council owned properties and council approved facilities for Cub Scout camping.
Things you may want to include:
 - i. You may also want to include activities, which are age appropriate and would not include an overnight stay.
 - ii. Develop a helpful list of places where Packs can get equipment locally, affordably, and point out their resources.
 - iii. Listing of facilities, will the location meet the housing and privacy needs of a pack?
3. **Assist with programming Council and District Cub Scout Event**
 - a. Staff the Campfire
 - b. Sing songs at meals and other key times
 - c. Suggest activities that will promote the theme
 - d. Have staff dress in costumes and have fun with it
 - e. Help develop the schedule to be more camp friendly
 - f. Assist Packs in giving directions (parking and on trails)
 - g. Help these scouts to do the flag ceremony
 - h. Help packs do skits for the campfire
 - i. Provide enthusiasm to the program
4. **Staffing events (provide program help)**
 - a. Parent & Son
 - b. Day Camp
 - c. Family Encampments
5. **Mentoring**
 - a. Be visible and approachable
 - b. Have a high visibility
6. **Service Projects**
 - a. Conduct service projects at the Cub resident camp
 - b. Take on projects that the Cubs can not complete themselves
Side note: There is usually a high turn over in Cub Scout leaders. Recall that they also do not fully understand the Scouting process yet. Experience tells us that Cub Scout leaders do not fully understand the need for them to participate in the Cub Scout Beaver day. So participation is low and it can take a while for major projects to be completed. The Order can address this issue in two ways. (1) Promote the Cub Scout Beaver Day and participate in the Beaver day (2) Conduct its own service day at the Cub Scout camp; an Ordeal at a Cub Scout camp can be just as successful as at the Boy Scout camp. The trainer should exercise caution in this statement.
7. **Training**
 - a. Maintain a website for Cub Leaders to use a resource for camping equipment and supplies

- b. Volunteer to conduct certain skill sessions at the council's BALOO training (model campsite)

8. **Promote Advancement**

- a. Conduct a Tiger Cub Fun day
- b. Host a Cub Scout Loop-o-rama
Definition: a Loop-o-rama is similar to a merit badge college. It is an event that allows Cub Scouts to earn athletic belt loops and academic pins.
- c. Offer to teach an activity pin for a pack
- d. Host a skill seminar for helping boys do things like construct a Pinewood derby racer, build bird houses and do other hands-on projects. These are great cold-weather activities.

II. Webelos to Boy Scout Transition

There are two events that the Order can participate in to promote the Webelos to Boy Scout Transition and encourage Cub Scouts to continue on into Boy Scouts.

Lion King Video Clip: Show the clip from the Lion King of Mufasa showing Simba his kingdom and discussing the responsibilities of the king. Another good clip is Simba's conversation with Rafiki about his responsibilities. Then discuss the importance of mentoring the new Scouts in the troop.

1. **Bridging Ceremonies / Crossover Ceremonies**

- A. The purpose of these ceremonies is for a Webelos Scout to go into the scout Troop of his choosing. Not only should his Cubmaster and Webelos Den Leader be present, but the Scoutmaster of his new Troop should be there to receive him.
- B. Arrowmen can help assure that this process is a smooth one by being active in their Troop and attending this ceremony. Making the new scouts feel welcome and part of this new family.

2. **Arrow of Light Ceremonies**

- A. No all boys earn the Arrow of Light. It is a very special time in a scout's life. Of course the Arrow of Light is the Cub Scout equivalent of the Boy Scout Eagle and should be treated as such.
- B. Many times the Arrow of Light and the Bridging Ceremonies are done at the same time, therefore it is very important to help these new scouts get active right away.

III. What are the steps to get our lodge / chapter started?

1. During an LLDC brainstorming session or a Lodge Executive Committee Meeting, conduct and open discussion about helping Cub Scouts more. Be sure to establish clear outcomes with specific procedures and accountability. Set achievable goals.
2. The lodge adviser should talk with the council commissioner, vice-president of Cub Scouting, and the camping committee chair about serving Cub Scout units and to what extent. On the chapter level, the chapter advisers should meet with the district chairman and the district committee.
3. Train your chapters on the "Best Methods" of what to offer in their chapter to units.
4. Collect data (1) on the interest of chapter members to help packs and (2) packs that would like assistance

5. Educate pack leadership through roundtables and a mailing addressed to pack leaders. Offer specific, attainable service. If you offer it, you must do it.
6. Be careful not to get overloaded or take on too much too fast.

Services you offer must be attainable and you must have good communication.

Show clip from Sister Act illustrating the need for communication and listening to each other. The clip starts where Mary Lawrence first meets the choir and the choir selects her to be their new director. Show the clip through the portion where Whoopi Goldberg's character discusses with the previous choir director the dedication of the choir members.

Items to draw from the movie clip:

- o Listening to each other
- o Dedication and commitment to required to be successful at meeting your goals
- o Starting to work with Cub Scouts is uncharted territory. It may be difficult at first, but with perseverance the lodge can make a significant impact on the Boy Scout and Cub Scout program.

APPENDIX: HANDOUTS

Booklet of Crossover & Arrow of Light Ceremonies

Cub Scout Clip Art

The Order of the Arrow and Cub Scouting #24-270

Cub Scout Outdoor Program Guidelines for 2003 #13-631 (these are available on Scoutnet)

Examples of Cub Scout Resident Leaders' Guide Books

Example of Contact Information handout for Roundtables (Appendix 1)

NOTE: Clip art, the corresponding powerpoint, and the booklet of Crossover Ceremonies and Arrow of Light Ceremonies should be presented to the participants on a compact disc.

APPENDIX: REFERENCES

1. Cub Scout Camping Facility Approval Form #13-508
2. Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation #34-162
3. Age Appropriate Guidelines for Scouting Activities #18-260
4. Resident Camp for Cub Scouting #13-33814
5. Cub Scout Day Camp Administrative Guide #13-33815
6. Cub Scout Outdoor Program Guidelines #13-631
7. Cub Scout Council Family Camping Standards #13-408
8. Order of the Arrow and Cub Scouting #24-270



Appendix

Chapter and Lodge Contact Information

If your Cub Scout Pack is interested in having our chapter to assist you with a Webelos Crossover or Arrow of Light Ceremony, please contact the following people.

Chapter Chief

55 Scout Trail

Somewhere, NC 22222

912.555.1234

email

Chapter Adviser

3 Scoutmaster Lane

Elsewhere, NC 323232

912.555.5678

email