

## JUNE 2015 - TOPIC: Campfire Planning

**Overview** A campfire is a great opportunity to put a cap on a great day of Cub Scout outdoor activities! A little careful planning and you can put together a great program.

But first, let's establish that for this presentation, a "Campfire" does not have to include a fire and it doesn't even have to be dark! It's just a gathering of Cubs, their leaders, family members, or whoever your group might be, gathered for some fun and fellowship.

### What is a campfire?

- Opportunity to get together to share fellowship!
- Opportunity for Scouts to practice public speaking skills!
- Opportunity for Scouts to showcase performance skills and to learn new ones!
- Opportunity to encourage creativity in our Scouts!
- Opportunity for ALL to participate!

(notice the word "Scouts", not "adults")

### Why do we have campfires?

- **Fun** – singing songs, performing skits, hearing stories – all great fun!
- **Action** – Action songs – hand clapping, exciting stories and group participation stunts all bring the action in to your program!
- **Entertainment** – let's have a great show!
- **Training** – as leaders, we can include training features – such as "How to Behave at a Campfire", without making it seem like school, and by making it part of the fun!
- **Adventure** – nothing like an exciting group participation stunt, or a great story to get everyone on the edge of their seats!
- **Fellowship** – Gathering everyone together in a shared experience contributes to the success of your pack – and it's a lot of fun as well!
- **Inspiration** – be sure to have a good "Cubmaster's Minute" to wrap it all up before you send them on their way!

### Successful Campfires

4 S's:

- Songs – all kinds of songs!
- Stunts – audience participation, hand clapping, flashlight stunt
- Stories – don't skip this part – it gets easier everytime you do it!
- Showmanship – an exciting fire lighting to get things started and everyone in the mood – plus "Follow the Flames"!
  
- Follow the Flames – campfires for Cubs should be about 45 – 60 minutes long, usually won't have to add any more wood...
- When the flames are high, the fire is bright – do your high energy, action parts loud, noisy, songs with actions – great
- Then as the fire burns down, the mood should come down – quieter songs, more reflective, maybe a story to quiet the group down...
- When you're down to the coals, it's time for a quiet story, a final slow song, and a Cubmaster Minute

PLANNING is the Key!

- Campfire program planner** (See separate handout)
- To use – just fill in all your pieces and parts, then turn it over and put them in the right order, according to the “Follow The Flames” concept!
- Screening Material** Everything must be screened in advance – we live up to the standards of the B.S.A!
- All material must be screened for appropriateness.
  - Everything that happens at your campfire, including the “spontaneous” run-ons, etc – you are aware of, and you have approved them.
  - Uphold the high standards of the B.S.A in everything we do!
- Standards** There will be NO:
- Embarrassing an audience member
  - Racial or cultural putdowns
  - Violent behavior
  - Bathroom humor
  - Water skits
  - Sexual overtones
  - Material that is not consistent with BSA Standards
- An additional “standard” – Would you do this skit if your saintly grandmother (or parents, or teacher, or minister...) was sitting in the front row?
- Campfire Conduct**
- **Tell them** – let them know, in advance if possible, what is expected at the campfire
  - **Use the Opening** – set the mood for a great campfire with a well-planned opening ceremony
  - **Use the Sign** – if things get out of hand, bring the group back with the Cub Scout sign – make sure your Master of Ceremonies is aware of this as well! Just put up the sign, and wait – it’ll happen!
  - **Well-Planned, well-paced** – if you prepare properly, with approved skits already selected for them to choose from, and everyone knows their place in the program using the Campfire Program Planner, there won’t be any time for shenanigans, it’ll all flow together!
  - **Stop if not approved** – if a group starts in with something that is not on your approved plan, just stand up, use the sign to restore order, thank them, and move on to the next group/event.
  - **Keep Control** – the best campfires run smoothly along from one thing to the next, with minimal interruptions, and everyone has a great time!

**Adventure  
tie-ins**

**Tigers:**

“Tigers in the Wild”

- Requirement 5: Participate in an outdoor pack meeting or pack campout campfire. Sing a song and act out a skit with your Tiger den as part of the program

**Wolves:**

“Call of the Wild”

- Requirement 6: On the campout, participate with your family or den in a campfire show. Prepare a skit or song, and then present it at the campfire for everyone else.

“Howling at the Moon”

- Requirement 3: Work together with your den to plan, prepare, and rehearse a campfire program to present to your families at a den meeting.
- Requirement 4 Practice and perform your role for a pack campfire program.

**Bears:**

“Bear Necessities”

- Requirement 2: Attend a campfire show, and participate by performing a song or skit with your den.

“Roaring Laughter”

- Requirement 6: Practice at least two run-ons with your den, and perform them at a pack meeting or campfire program.

**Arrow of Light:**

“Camper”

- Requirement 4: On a pack campout, work with your den leader or another adult to plan a campfire program with the other dens. Your campfire program should include an impressive opening, songs, skits, a Cubmaster’s minute, and an inspirational closing ceremony.

**Next Month:** Resources for Packs and Den Leaders