

What I Learned at Training: Planning the Yearly Pack Program

The purpose of a planned, year-long pack program is to provide the boys with fun, excitement, growth, and enrichment. It will also appeal to the boys' families and will aid the pack's leaders in carrying out their responsibilities.

Why plan? Anything worth doing well is worth planning. Planning is planning to succeed. Planning lets everyone know what he or she needs to do. With a plan more can be accomplished.

Another thing: we plan to give the boys the maximum, not the minimum. For example, the pack meeting is a great time to recognize boys' advancement, but is much more. It is a family fun time. It's a time for togetherness, a time for the boys to give, and a time of inspiration.

An exciting, planned pack program will help us keep more boys in Scouting so they can receive the benefits of the Scouting programs.

So what's the plan? The plan starts in July when leaders and Cub Scout families brainstorm what events they would like to do during the following year. Then at the yearly district kick-off meeting in August information is passed out regarding the year's district and council activities (winter fun day, district day camp, Mom and Me camp, Dad and Lad camp, residence camp, district and council pinewood derbies, training dates, University of Scouting, popcorn sales, Scouting for Food, and so on) and a yearly *Program Helps* publication is distributed. *Program Helps* can be a great aid to planning. It presents twelve monthly themes and many ideas for pack and den activities based on the themes. These themes are not mandatory. Using themes at all is not mandatory. But a theme will provide focus for each month's activities, a focal point around which to build the pack meeting, and a unifying focus for all the pack's members each month. If a pack uses the *Program Helps* themes, a lot of the planning is already

done!

After the district kick-off meeting, the yearly pack program planning meeting is held, also in August. The pack committee chair, committee members, Cubmaster and assistants, and den leaders and assistants attend. Interested parents and the unit commissioner can also be invited. The purpose of this meeting is to set the calendar for the year. Bring calendars (school, community, etc.), information from local troops, last year's pack calendar, the information from kick-off, and lots of ideas. Things to set on the calendar: monthly themes, Webelos activity badges to work on each month (for first-year and second-year Webelos dens), pack leaders' planning meeting dates, blue and gold banquet, Scout Sunday, pinewood derby, crossover, popcorn dates, Scouting for Food, district and council activities (including roundtable meetings), pack campouts, other pack activities, service projects, joint activities with troops, charter renewal, everything the pack will accomplish.

One more thing to add is a pack adults' meeting. This is a meeting to be held after the fall recruitment, attended by the pack's leaders and by all the parents of Cub Scouts, at which the yearly program is explained to the parents. It is a great time to distribute and review the pack calendar and phone numbers of leaders, to discuss family responsibilities, and to handle leadership needs.

Once the plan has been established, two important meetings each month are the pack leaders' planning meeting and the pack meeting. The pack leaders' planning meeting is a time to evaluate the previous month, to finalize the plans for the current month's pack meeting (including presenting den advancement reports to the advancement chairman in order to acquire all needed awards), and to plan ahead for the next month's pack meeting and any other upcoming activities.

Finally, the pack meeting is the high point of the month

with the presentation of advancement and other awards, songs, stunts, skits, demonstrations, and ceremonies. This should be a fun time for all the Cub Scouts and their families, should be short on business items, and should be well planned in advance so that it starts on time and flows smoothly.

Chapter 24 in the *Cub Scout Leader Book* gives more detail on the whole process.

Let's take the time to plan and carry out a great pack program for our boys. They and their families will have a great time. Maybe they'll bring their friends! (But that's another story—Recruitment!)

Commissioner Basic Training

**April 12, 2008
Findlay Service Center
Registration 8:00-8:30
Training: 8:30 SHARP
\$8.00 Fee**

New Unit Commissioner? Long time District Commissioner? Somewhere In-between? Come join us for a morning of fun, fellowship, and even some knowledge.

If your training card is more than 5 years old, don't you really think you owe it to your units and to yourself to attend, and get up-to-date information so you can better serve the Scouts and Scouters you are assigned to?

What's that you say—**YOU DON'T HAVE A "TRAINED" CARD???** W-E-L-L-L THEN, you really **are** in need of this session.

How can you serve the Scouting units you are assigned to if you don't even know what you are supposed to be doing? Give your units the full advantage of your assistance by being trained and by keeping updated on the latest changes in the Commissioner Service.

Come join us for this very important training session.

Contact Larry & Kathy Dehnart, Asst. Council Commissioners / Training 419/538-6017 dehnart@bright.net

Wilderness First Aid Basics

April 25 – 27, 2008 • Camp Berry, Findlay, Oh

Registrations are due no later than Monday, March 17th

This is a 16-hour first aid course for backcountry situations when EMS is not readily available.

The course meets the current requirements for those attending any of the BSA High Adventure Camp programs and is recommended for those attending any other High Adventure programs that Scouts or Venturers might be involved. CPR certification (additional 4 hours) will be offered as an option on Friday evening (Must be doing WFAB to participate).

The WFAB program is open to all youth 14 or older and must be recommended by their Venture Advisor, Scoutmaster or Council Contingent Crew Advisor. The program is also open to Adult Scouters. ALL participants must complete a Class 1 physical form (Class 3 medical form required for adults 40 and older). The class will feature outdoor scenarios, some based on "real" accidents. This is a great opportunity for mature youth members that are planning to participate in high adventure activities or are considering staff opportunities at camp to get advanced, wilderness specific, first aid training. Leaders are very welcome too!

The options for the weekend and the associated cost are:

Option 1 – Wilderness First Aid and CPR

(3 meals Saturday, 2 meals Sunday and manuals): \$ 75

Option 2 - Wilderness First Aid only with arrival on Friday night

(3 meals Saturday, 2 meals Sunday and manuals): \$ 65

Option 3 - Wilderness First Aid only with arrival on Saturday morning

(2 meals Saturday, 2 meals Sunday and manuals): \$ 61

The 20-hour course (WFAB and CPR) begins Friday evening with the CPR certification and the class ends about 5 PM on Sunday. Participants must complete registration and be ready to learn by 7 PM Friday evening. The Wilderness First Aid only participants must complete registration and be ready to learn by 8:30 AM on Saturday and the class ends about 5 PM on Sunday. Participants who successfully complete this course will receive a Red Cross Wilderness First Aid card good for 3 years and a Red Cross CPR card good for 1 year. The class is limited to 24 participants but there must be at least 16 participants to hold the class.

Registrations are due no later than Monday, March 17th. Fees are transferable but not refundable.

Applications are available at the Council web site bsac449-bsa.org on the forms page under Training Forms, in both council offices or by contacting Rod Smith, rsmith57@woh.rr.com or Mike Saxton, jmsaxton@defnet.com.

U.S Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla will be having a Boating Safely Course on May 3rd for all Boys Scouts and their Leaders.

See page 8 of this issue for more details.

Introduction To Outdoor Leader Skills

**May 16 & 17, 2008 — Friday and Saturday
TRAINING WILL TAKE PLACE RAIN OR SHINE**

General Information

- Training is at Camp Lakota, Defiance, Ohio.
- Schedule is from 5 p.m. Friday to 8 p.m. Saturday. Opening session will start on time at 7:00 p.m. on Friday.
- For all Scoutmasters, Assistant Scoutmasters, Webelos Leaders, Committee Members, and others desiring to learn or improve outdoor Scouting skills. • Cost is \$10.00; no refunds can be made.
- Please register by **Friday, May 2**, at the council office (this is essential in order to allow patrols to be established and organized in advance of the training).
- All participants must have an up-to-date medical form *with them*
- Scout uniform is the dress code for the weekend.
- Campsites will be determined by staff and by weather conditions.

Patrol Method Observed

- Patrols will be set up by the training staff according to districts about one week before the course. You will receive a call or an e-mail from the staff or from your patrol leader.
- Each patrol is responsible for its own food, cooking gear, tents, and other equipment (including dutch ovens).
- Please eat supper **before** arriving on Friday. A Friday night cracker barrel will be provided.
- Each patrol will **cook** Saturday breakfast, and prepare a trail **lunch** (i.e., not cooked).
- Saturday dinner will be a Troop Feast (details at Friday's opening session); food will be provided — participants will cook it! Dutch ovens will be used.
- Patrols should have songs, skits, and yells to perform for Friday evening's campfire program.
- Participants must complete the ENTIRE course for certification as trained.

What to Bring

- An up-to-date medical form. • Scout uniform. • Boy Scout Handbook.
- Webelos Handbook (Cub Scout leaders).
- Tent, sleeping bag, **mess kit and utensils**, appropriate gear for possible weather conditions.
- A **compass** (Boy Scout leaders — Webelos leaders will be in a separate session).
- A knife.
- Each patrol is responsible to bring several dutch ovens and food (Saturday breakfast and lunch; bring drinks for each meal, including the feast). Each patrol should bring enough food to feed the patrol. The feast will be cooked in dutch ovens.
- Bring any snacks you'll want and a water bottle.

On-time registrants who complete the course will be entered in a drawing for a copy of the *Boy Scout Fieldbook*.

Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills

**Camp Lakota, May 16-17, 2008• Please register by Friday, May 2, 2008
Cost: \$10.00; no refunds can be made**

Name _____

Unit type/# _____ Position _____

Address _____ City, State, ZIP _____

Home phone _____ Work phone _____

E-mail address _____

District _____

Visa / MasterCard / Discover / American Express (circle one):

Card number _____

Expiration date _____

Mail with check or Credit Card information to:

Black Swamp Area Council

2100 Broad Avenue

Findlay OH 45840

or call 1-800-686-4220 (419-422-4356).

Training event account code: 1-6801-037-20

Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation (B.A.L.O.O.)

Sat., March 8, 2008, 9am–5pm • Camp Berry, Findlay, Ohio

Take your entire pack (Tiger Cubs through Webelos Scouts) on an overnight campout! We'll help you plan and prepare! Learn how to ensure a safe and fun outdoor experience for your Cub Scouts.

Pack camping requires at least one B.A.L.O.O.-trained adult to attend. All adults involved with pack activities are encouraged to attend.

Course sessions:

Aims and Purposes; Planning; Equipment; Campfire Planning; Campfire Demonstration; Health and Safety; Program (what to do on a pack campout); Stoves, Lanterns, and Fire Safety; First Aid and Sanitation; Nature Hikes and Games; Cub Scout Cooking

Course fee is \$10.00 and includes lunch. Please register by Friday, February 29, 2008, at the council office (by mail or phone). No refunds can be made. On-time registrants who complete the course will be entered in a drawing for a *Cub Scout How To Book*.

Check-in begins at 8:30 a.m. and the course will start at 9:00 a.m. sharp!

B. A. L. O. O.

Saturday, March 8, 2008 • Please register by Friday, February 29, 2008

Cost: \$10.00; no refunds can be made

Name _____

Unit type/# _____ Position _____

Address _____ City, State, ZIP _____

Home phone _____ Work phone _____

E-mail address _____

District _____

Visa / MasterCard / Discover / American Express (circle one):

Card number _____

Expiration date _____

Mail with check or Credit Card information to:

Black Swamp Area Council, 2100 Broad Avenue, Findlay OH 45840

or call 1-800-686-4220 (419-422-4356).

Training event account code: 1-6801-035-20