

# FOCUS GROUP AT PHILMONT NATIONAL JUNIOR LEADER INSTRUCTOR CAMP JULY 10, 1996

During the National Junior Leader Instructor Camp at Philmont the boys were given the following topics with a facilitator to discuss and arrive at a consensus on the topics. The following statements were taken from photographs of the actual posters the boys created during the discussion. Prepared by Jim Fitzgerald, Lincoln Heritage.

## IMAGE

What is portrayed?

- Not popular due to ignorant judgements(sic)
- Well-respected by those who understand it

How do we improve Image?

- make a great first impression during first experience with meaningful activities
- make cub Scouting more memorable and useful

## HANDBOOK

- durable
- law, oath, motto first
- change art work
- more photos
- thumb index
- CD-ROM
- day-timer binder

## PROGRAM PLANNING

- troops use Woods Wisdom very little, if at all
- most troops use a lot of boy input in planning programs
- PLC is used in most troops for program planning
- boy-organized activities are more popular w/boys
- programs are limited by money, logistics, and age differences

## YOUTH LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

- eliminate bugler and chaplain's aide for advancement purposes
- add troop OA Coordinator
- add option for more than one ASPL
- every scout should have the opportunity to lead at the patrol level, but troop leadership positions should be based on ability

## TRAINING

- #1.-Improvement needed on current video tapes. Tapes should be used as a supplement to larger, more effective program
- SM and ASM should be required to participate & understand in JLT courses. ( should also be able to apply skills)
- to be an active supporter of Junior Leader Training
- #2.-Require to active in Junior Leader Training

-leader assisted, boy run program

## HANDBOOK

- \*A spiral version of the handbook in its current form (durable)
- \*Include inspirational section for Eagle
- \*Less intimidating-sounding Eagle project requirement
- \*Have all requirements located in one place
- \*Include promotion of
  - Order of the Arrow
  - Exploring-Varsity-Venture
  - Junior Leader Training-Local and National
  - High-Adventure Camps

## ADVANCEMENT

ADVANCEMENT IS A POSITIVE FORCE IN SCOUTING! IT KEEPS BOYS ACTIVE AND GETS THEM INVOLVED. RECOGNITION BUILDS CONFIDENCE AND PRIDE. WE WANT MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADVANCEMENT (TO LEARN TO HAVE FUN TO REACH GOALS) THE RESULT OF ADVANCEMENT IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE ACTUAL ADVANCEMENT.

## CAMPING

1. Favorite Experience
  - Order of the Arrow
  - High Adventure
  - Aquatics Programs
  - Shooting Sports
  - Loose Schedule for socializing
  - Spirit (campfires, etc.)
2. New Camping Programs
  - Sports Activities
  - Troop Competitions
  - Mountain Biking
  - Upgraded Indian Lore
  - Troop Challenges
3. % of time spent on advancement
  - emphasis on skills not badges!
4. Least Liked Camping Experiences
  - cold showers
  - poor latrines
  - tents too small

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+ Appreciate Nat'l Council's interest in our opinions(sic)

- Problem with troop that does not camp  
Requirements should make them do so

## UNIFORMS

- Uniforms a "thumbs up"
- they tell a scouts achievements

- Mesh baseball caps are tacky
  - fitted hats, with no foam
  - The "booney" caps are loved
- Cargo pockets added to shorts
- Specific guidelines for patch placements on shirt
- Cost of uniforms too expensive
- Rip-stop nylon, zip-off leg pants
- name tags liked

### TROOP MEETINGS

- Meetings with a PLC are more effective than the SPL and ASPL planning meetings alone
- New resources in addition to Woods Wisdom are needed
- Responsibility of all leadership positions in the Troop must be stressed
- Communication must be stressed

### MEMBERSHIP ENHANCEMENT

- peer pressure is a problem, and if we make things friendly to everyone, People will want to join
- Inhance(sic) the image by starting them young and keeping the program strong!
- Peer pressure, and the image that they will feel out of place. The parents have a strong role in their son's life.

### WEBELOS TRANSITION

- Personalize recruiting and Transition to the Individual Webelos Scout
- Make Transition at 12 yrs. old regardless of Arrow of Light--Alternative program for those with A of L but not 12.
- Increase emphasis on Camping as a Webelo (Long-Term)
- Wean form parents during Webelos program

### PATROL METHOD

- \*All of us use it because it's important
- \*Provides chain of command and competition
- \*We disagreed that reorganizing patrols often was a good idea.
- \*Leaders should be a resource, but the boys should run it.

### RETAINING TROOP MEMBERSHIP

- \*Boys stay in scouting
  - Satisfaction of receiving Eagle
  - Stay with friends
  - Oppurtunity to do unique activities
  - Because boys run which makes them feel wanted
  - Develop a patrol that specializes in activities that interest boys in that patrol
- \*Boys quit scouting
  - Other organized interest
  - not enough leadership positions
  - Programs that are advancement driven rather than fun driven
  - Adults don't utilize scouting resources
  - Boys get bored--no responsibility
  - Adult run rather than boy run
  - Lack of respect among non-scout youth
  - No Venture/Varsity program in some troops

