
BALOO'S BUGLE



Volume 4 Issue 5

December 1997

This is the last month for the Boy's Life "Say Yes to Reading!" The patch that is earned is really worth the effort of the one page book report.



Write a one-page report titled "The Best Book I Read This Year" and enter it in the *Boys' Life* 1997 "Say Yes to Reading!" contest. The book can be fiction or nonfiction, but the report has to be in your own words. Enter in one of these three age categories:

- 8 years old and younger
- 9 and 10 years old
- 11 years old and older

When Pedro receives your report, he will send you a free patch. The winners in each age group will also win an Erector building set, get to pick a book from our special prize list and have their names announced in this column!

The contest is open to all *Boys' Life* readers. Be sure to include your name, address and age on the entry. Send your report, along with a self-addressed, stamped envelope, to: *Boys' Life* Reading Contest, S204, P.O. Box 152079, Irving, TX 75015-2079. Entries must be post-marked by Dec. 31, 1997.

At this time I would like to thank all of unit leaders for making Cub Scouting available to their boys. What we are doing is so important! Keep up your hard work, I would also like to tell a little about myself (I do this every so often). My name is Chris and I have been a volunteer in Scouting for eight years. In 1993 I had the pleasure of being invited to a Cub Scout Woodbadge course. **Antelopes Rule.** It was there that I got the idea of doing a newsletter like I do now. Before that, I was doing an announcement sheet for my district of district and council events. At Woodbadge I got some Powwow Books from other councils. Looking over the books I saw that what was done in the Greater St. Louis Area Council for Cubs (skits, ceremonies, etc.) was different than what was done in another area of the central region. The next year I went to Philmont for UC training and again got another Powwow book from Louisiana. My former DC, Jerry, also collects Powwow books from ALL over and shares them with me. He also taught me how to set up a newsletter via the telephone. Every month I just go through my books and try to put in information that I think will benefit leaders in their units. My family went online last December and I have been able to share my work with many more scouters. I follow the monthly themes set out by the National Office of the BSA, and also try to include a monthly training tip using my Cub Scout Leader Book (a very valuable book that I do buy). The Bugle is truly a labor of love for me. I am a member of AOL and have put issues in there from April through my current issue. Unfortunately, you can only get those issues if you are online with AOL. But recently my online scouter friend from Canada, put the Bugle at his site also. You can find that address on the last page. The following is a listing of newsletters I have loaded to AOL's Scouting Forum.

Subject: Word: Baloo's Bugle

Date: 10/17/97

Subject: Word: Baloo's Bugle (Cub Oct. RT)

Date: 09/15/97

Subject: Word: Baloo's Bugle Sept N/L

Date: 08/11/97

Subject: Word: Aug R/T N/L Our Town

Date: 07/08/97

Subject: Word: June/July N/L

Date: 05/16/97

Subject: WORD: The Great Outdoors N/L

Date: 04/26/97

JUST FOR TODAY

Just for today, I will live through this day only, and not set far-reaching goals to try to overcome all my problems at once. I know I can do something for 24 hours that would overwhelm me if I thought I had to keep it up for a lifetime.

Just for today, I will be happy. I will not dwell on thoughts that depress me. I will chase them out of my mind and replace them with happy thoughts.

Just for today, I will adjust myself to what is. I will face reality. I will correct those things that I can correct and accept those that I cannot.

Author unknown

TIGER CUBS

★Big Idea #6 Know Your Community

Opening: Recite Tiger Cub Motto

Search: Make plans to visit a museum or historical sight.

Discover: Play "Guessing the Spot"

--Show a series of photographs in the area. See who can be the first to identify the picture.

Share: Share an interesting trip or family activity from the last month.

Closing: Recite the Tiger Cub Promise.

Opening: Recite the Tiger Cub Motto.

Search: Visit a miniature golf course. Make a map showing how to get there.

Discover: Make a map of your neighborhood showing important places of interest.

Share: Share some of the places in the community that are important to your family and why.

Closing: Recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Activities

Visit the local recreation department and find out about community recreation programs. Conduct a clean-up treasure hunt on your school grounds or in your neighborhood. Not only will you have fun looking for the items listed, but you will pick up litter as well.

Wanted

A ballpoint pen	A pencil
A blue object	A red object
A candy wrapper	A lunch bog
A piece of clothing	Notebook paper
A yellow object	Something glass
Something plastic	Something round
A leaf or twig	A bottle cap
A broken crayon	A paper clip
A rubber band	Something metal

Something square

1. Divide the group into teams of two or more.
2. Give each team two trash bags, gloves, and a copy of the wanted list.

3. Set a time limit.
4. Spread out and search for the items on the list.
5. As you find the items, check them off the list, and carefully pick them up and place them in one of the bags.
6. Put any unlisted litter you find in the other bag.
7. When time is up, see which team has found the largest number of listed items and declare this team the winner.
8. Sort all of the litter into boxes labeled glass, metal, paper, plastic and organic.
9. Dispose of this litter properly. Return, reuse, or recycle what you can. Discard the rest by placing it in a garbage can or trash bin.

★Big Idea #7 - Helping Others

Opening: Recite the Tiger Cub Promise

Search: Plan to visit a retirement home. Explain how and why it is important to help others.

Discover: Make decorative cards out of construction paper, and cut out pictures from old cards and magazines. Glue a message inside the card. Take these to the retirement home.

Share: Share some ways you and your family have helped other people.

Closing: Recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Opening: Recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Search: Find out what the Cub Scout Pack is doing for a service project and take part in it.

Discover: Volunteer to help an elderly neighbor with yard work.

Share: Share how it feels to help someone less fortunate than yourself. Talk about ways to help others.

Closing: Recite the Tiger Cub Motto.

★Christmas Tree Braid

Materials needed: colored construction paper, yarn, scissors, glue

Step 1: Cut two strips of colored construction paper about 1 inch wide and 10-15 inches long.

Step 2: Glue the end together at right angles.

Step 3: Alternately fold one strip over the other to make a braid. Glue the other ends together.

Step 4: Attach a piece of string or yarn for hanging.

★Pint-sized animals

Materials: pint milk carton, bendable straws, yarn, felt, paper, glue, markers, and paint or wiggle eyes.

Mouse: Turn closed milk carton on its side. Glue on felt circles for ears and yarn for tail. Stick straws through holes punched in top for whiskers. Draw on eyes.

Bull: Set closed carton upright and open top. Use bendable straws for horns and plain straws for eyebrows. Draw on eyes, nose and nose ring.

★Holiday half-pints

Santa has a red felt hat, painted eyes, and a cotton moustache and beard.

Reindeer has painted eyes, straws for antlers and felt ears. Add red pom-pom for a nose.

★ Tiger Game

This is my Tiger Toe
"It" sits in the middle of a circle formed by the other players. "It" runs around the circle and finally comes to a stop in front of one of the players. "It" may say something like "This is my toe!" while he grabs his elbow. The player whom he has challenged must take hold of his toe and call "This is my elbow!" If the player fails or becomes confused as to the name he should use, he becomes "it".

★ Tiger Songs

Hi There, Tiger Cubs!

(Tune: Hail, hail, the Gang's all Here)

Hi! Hi! Hi! There, Tiger Cub!
We are glad to meet you,
We are glad to greet you,
Hi! Hi! Hi!, there Tiger Cub!
You are welcome to our group.

Ten Little Tigers

One little, two little, three little Tigers,
Four little, five little, six little Tigers,
Seven little, eight little, nine little Tigers,
Ten little Tiger Cub Boys.

Where Has My Little Tiger Gone?

Oh where, oh where,
Has my little tiger gone?
Oh where, oh where
Can he be?
With his ears cut short,
And his tail cut long,
Oh where, oh where can he be?

★ Flag Ceremony for Tiger Cubs

In many packs, Tiger Cubs are overlooked at flag ceremonies because the flags are too heavy for them to carry. The standard flag ceremony doesn't have to, and shouldn't be used at every pack meeting. Variety is the spice of life and it also adds sparkle to your pack meetings.

Flag Ceremony #1

The Cubmaster or Group Leader goes to the front of the room and says "Will the honor guard please come forward?" The Tigers march to the front and stand before the flag. Together they salute, then turn to the audience and say, "We are Americans and we're proud of it!"

First boys says, "If you're proud to be an American, please stand and say, "I'm proud to be an American."

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Second boy says, "Hand salute. Pledge of Allegiance repeat."

Third boy says, "Two" after pledge is completed and then says, Honor Guard retire."

The boys march off the same way they entered.

TRAINING TIP

Pow Wow

The pow wow is an annual get-together of Cub Scout leaders from a whole council or district. The pow wow is convention time for the pack--a time when a wise Cubmaster takes all leaders to a learning extravaganza. There are sections on games, crafts, skits and puppets, ceremonies, administration, and the Webelos den. It's a time for parents and all experienced, new and prospective leaders to share ideas and see what the other packs are doing.

All leaders are encouraged to attend this exciting, fun-filled, informative training session every year. Check with your unit commissioner, district training chairman, or local council service center to find out when and where your pow wow will be held.

This information was taken from Chapter 5 of the NEW Cub Scout Leader Book. I thought the last edition was fabulous that I bought many years ago. Somehow, the book has gotten a whole lot better. There are even some forms in the back of the book that can be used to help you with your pack or den. This book is sold at your local scout office.

PRE-OPENING

☺Who Collects What

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Rock Hound | A. Stamps |
| 2. Folk Singer | B. Recipes |
| 3. Numismatist | C. Timetables |
| 4. Ham Radio Operator | D. Coins |
| 5. Cook | E. Old furniture |
| 6. Lexicographer | F. Call numbers |
| 7. Philatelist | G. First editions |
| 8. Antique Collector | H. Ballads |
| 9. Railroad Buff | I. Obsidan |
| 10. Book Lover | J. Words |
- (Answers: 1. I, 2,H 3,D 4,F 5,B, 6,J, 7,A 8,E 9C,10,G)

☺Which is heavier, a pound of feathers, or a pound of gold? Typically the answer is they are both the same - one pound. However, to be exactly correct, gold and other precious metals are weighed in Troy weight, which has only 12 ounces to the pound. Feathers are weighed in Avoirdupois weight, which has 16 ounces to the pound. So technically the pound of feathers weigh more.

☺Tongue Twisters

Jasper the genius genially jogged and jumped joyously.
Ten timid tinsmiths tinned tanks.
Six thick thistle sticks.
Two tired tadpoles tipping tea.

* Age-Old Secret

Ask someone to write down the number of the month he was born (January=1, February=2, etc.) . Tell him to double it, add 5, multiply by 50 add his age, subtract 250. Have him read his answer aloud. The last two numbers will tell you his age and the remaining, the month in which he was born.

--My gosh, this works! I was born in August, and you double that which = 16. Adding 5 makes it 21. Then multiply by 50 = 1050. Okay, here we go, this could be a first, I am telling my age. After adding my age the number is 1093. I am not making it that easy; you at least have to figure it out. When you subtract 250 from 1093 you get 843.

Again my thanks go out to Lorie McGraw for sending this to me.

An Interesting Puzzle

Note: Thanks for this go to John Favaro

Work this out as you read. You'll be surprised by the result.

1. First of all, pick the number of days a week that you would like to be handed a check for \$1,000,000.
2. Multiply this number by 2.
3. Add 5.
4. Multiply it by 50.
5. If you have already had your birthday this year, add 1747. If you haven't, add 1746.
6. Last step: Subtract the four digit year that you were born.

RESULT: You should now have a three digit number: The first digit of this was your original number (how many checks you want to receive each week). The second two digits are your age!!!

It really works. Try it! More important, this is the only year it will ever work!

Fun Fact

Popcorn kernels expand from 30 to 35 times their size when "popped"!

OPENING CEREMONY

©Genius Opening Ceremony

Props: 6 poster boards with the letters G-E-N-U-I-S and the words each boy is to read on the back.

- Cub #1" G** Great, Grand
Cub #2: E Exciting, Educated, Explorer
Cub #3: N New, Neat
Cub #4: I Interesting, Intelligent
Cub #5: U Unusual, Unique
Cub #6: S Super Sensational, Smart

©The Meaning Of An Old-Fashioned Christmas

Seven boys each read a verse. This could be used as a skit, or an opening or closing

A boy asked his parents this question one day.
 What's an Old-fashioned Christmas, done the old fashioned way.

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They pondered the answer, took time to think through,
 What would they say, what would they do?

Then they answered him. "Son, the Christmas today
 Often seems a far cry from what it should portray.
 People crowd in the stores buying gifts and toys
 In large quantities for their girls and boys.

In an old fashioned Christmas, things were different, you see

Far fewer gifts and toys there seemed to be.
 So they were all given with love beyond measure
 Making the giving a wonderful treasure.

In an old fashioned Christmas the best gifts of all
 Were those of good will or, perhaps, a token so small
 Toys then were not given out by the score.
 Many gifts were homemade, not bought from a store.

In an old fashioned Christmas one thing you must know.
 The number of toys and gifts was quite low.
 But the love and the giving, right from the start
 Was beyond measure for it came from the heart.

For the best gifts of all, we can't always see.
 And the best gifts of all aren't under the tree.
 They are in the way we care about others,
 Friends and parents, sisters and brothers.

For an old fashioned Christmas let's all start
 By remembering that it begins in the heart.
 Through giving of kindness and goodwill to mankind.
 An old-fashioned Christmas we'll certainly find.

©Opening or Closing Ceremony

Props: Boys holding lettered signs to spell **G-E-N-I-U-S**

Cub #1: G Gutenberg invented moveable types of printing presses so that more people could have books to read.

Cub #2: E Edison gave us the light bulb, the phonograph, storage batteries and many other things that we regard as necessities today.

Cub #3: N Newton's study of gravity and light started many other geniuses on their way.

Cub #4: I Irving's stories have enchanted young and old for many years.

Cub #5 U Urey's discoveries in chemistry and nuclear power will be used for generations to come.

Cub #6: S Scouting's founder, Lord Baden-Powell, developed a plan for using the genius of every boy.

* **DEN YELLS**

North, South,
 East or West
 Den _____
 Is the Best!

United we stand
 Divided we fall
 Den_____is the best of all

Show us some action!

We've done fine!

5

Show us some spark!
All for Den _____
Stand up and bark.

We've done well
Now for an ear splitting yell
Den____Den__Den_____

➤ DEN IDEAS

1. Bait-casting practice - with a dad's help.
2. Make clay models, paint and fire them.
3. Have a swap day
4. Start crystal growing hobby.
5. Baseball game with another den.
6. Handicraft for themes
7. Play charades..

DEN LEADER IDEAS

This month I am introducing ideas from other den leaders from around the United States and Canada. If you have an idea that was successful for you den or pack please email me and I will try to include it in the Bugle.

Get a list of children from the local school from the guidance counselor or Principal. Draw names in your pack with the first names only of the children from the list. Ask each scout family to bring a shoe box with gloves and socks in it to the Christmas Party. At the party, have the parents help the boys wrap the presents and put tags on them saying Merry Christmas from Pack _____. Then, have a game and refreshments for the cubs & parents. Take the presents to the school with the original list, so they can be given out. We did this last year and it was a big success. I had a bigger list of items for the box and everyone thought they had to bring everything on the list to put in the boxes! We've been asked to do it again this year. So, I narrowed it down to these two items to make it easier on the boys' parents.

The other idea is for the pack meeting. Paint a Christmas tree on a large poster. Title it the Good Turn Tree. As each den arrives, have them write the good turns they have been doing all year on red circles to stick on the tree to decorate.

CSManyhat@aol.com

If a DL uses a "good conduct candle", how does he/she make it last longer?

Freeze it and keep it in the freezer...This is also great for your emergency candles when electricity goes out.

Thanks Lydia from Louisiana

Here are some ideas for your Baloo's Bugle. They are from Roger Claff, Cubmaster, Cub Scout Pack 1570, Herndon, VA! They are free for anyone to use. Please feel free also to put my e-mail, Reclaff@aol.com, and the pack's internet address, <http://www.mindspring.com/~keyo>, in the Bugle.

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1) SCOUTING FOR FOOD - We in Pack 1570 feel it's important to thank the many people in our community who donate food to the Scouting for Food drive. Each year, just before the drive, I make up on computer a "door hanger," shaped like the "do not disturb" door hangers in hotels. The hanger has a cub scout graphic on it, and reads, "Thank you for helping out with Scouting for Food - Den X." Below this message I put signature blocks with the first names of the scouts of the particular den. Then I ask the den leaders to get the signatures, copy the finished door hanger 30-50 times, and cut out the hangers. On Scouting for Food day, the scouts leave behind a door hanger on the door of each house where they find a filled Scouting for Food bag. We take along some masking tape on windy days, and for houses with extra large doorknobs.

2) FLAG VIDEO - Our pack put together a video for our chartered organization, the Clearview Elementary School. In the video, our scouts in uniform demonstrate the proper way to present the flag, raise it, lower it, and fold it, as well as showing proper respect by saluting the flag and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. At the end, the scouts read the following poem I made up:

The flag is the symbol of our country,

Long and proud may it wave;
For those who fought and died for freedom,
We forget not what they gave;
So no matter what our cares are,
No matter our pains and hurts and gripes,
Our flag reminds us all of freedom's cost,
And we salute you, Stars and Stripes.

3) PACK-MAN COMIC STRIP - Please check out Pack-Man on our home page.

4) BEAR (or other rank) ADVANCEMENT CEREMONY* - I wrote this for a Scouter in New Jersey. I was glad to help her out, and she said it was very much enjoyed.

There is a Pahute Indian legend of long ago, told over many campfires since. It is of the Pahute gods Tobats and Shinob, and how they made the seasons and the weather.

First, Tobats made the earth and everything on it. When Tobats made the earth there were no seasons and no weather. There was no need for weather, because he had made all trees, plants, grasses, and seeds out of stone. They did not need sunshine or rain to grow.

But the people and animals complained that they didn't have anything to eat, and the water and clouds complained that they didn't have anything to do. So Tobats sent Shinob to turn the trees, plants, grasses, and seeds into living things, and to give the people the gift of corn. Meanwhile, Tobats made two seasons - summer and winter - and the weather that goes with them.

Now Tobats' Weather god lived in a house with two trails leading to it. One trail headed north, and the other

headed south. When the Weather god walked north, he was joined by Winter, and the cold weather would come to earth. When the Weather god walked south, he was joined by Summer, and the hot weather would come.

Sometimes the Weather god would walk a long way north and only a short way south. Then there would be a short summer, and a long, cold winter. Sometimes the Weather god would walk a long way south and only a short way north. There would be only a short winter and a long, hot summer. The people and animals were not happy.

Tobats sent Shinob to hear the complaints. One animal, the night-bird, had a suggestion. Why not add two more seasons - Spring and Fall - and make the Weather god's path a circle? Then the Weather god would start out the year walking with Winter, but would soon be joined by Spring, then Summer, then Fall. Since the Weather god would not have to turn around to get back home, the seasons would always join him in the same order. The length of trail would be the same for each season, so the seasons on earth would all be the same length.

Tobats and Shinob liked the idea and made it happen. And so even today, the Weather god starts out each year walking with Winter, then Spring, then Summer, then Fall. And as he proceeds on his journey, we on earth experience the weather of these seasons in exactly that order.

Tonight we recognize our Bear Scouts as they receive their Bear badges. These scouts are like the Pahute Weather god. They started out on the Bear trail like a strong but variable wind, with lots of energy but little or no direction. Along the trail they found that direction in the Cub Scout Promise, and in their activities for God, Country, Family, and Self.

Along the trail there were many storms and cold winds. There were times when it was difficult for them to proceed, but they kept on the trail and didn't turn back. And as they went along, and as the season changed from fall, to winter, to spring, they grew.

Tonight, our scouts have shown themselves worthy of advancement, and their forecast is excellent. They have changed from September's variable wind to the Blue and Gold of a clear March day; for their truth, loyalty, and belief in God is as clear as the blue sky above, and their good cheer and happiness is as warm as the golden sun.

Please join in recognizing our Bear Scouts as they receive their advancement badges (here you introduce the scouts and present the badges).

* Modified from "Why Tobats Made Winter" and "How the Seasons Were Set," in "Why the North Star Stands Still and Other Indian Legends," William R. Palmer, Zion Natural History Association, Zion National Park, Springdale, UT, pp. 62-70.

ADVANCEMENT CEREMONY

☺**Advancement**

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As each boy receives his recognition (in den or Pack meeting), let him give his own idea of a genius. What... why... how... where...

*** Computer Awards**

Equipment: Box made up to look like a computer, large cards with the words BOBCAT, WOLF, BEAR, etc. on them

Cubmaster" In keeping with our theme of Genius Night, I would like to unveil my latest invention. (Uncovers or brings in computer.) This amazing device is able to collate all the information that comes in from our Pack committee members, den leaders, Webelos den leaders and parents. It can then determine which Cub and Webelos Scouts are eligible for which awards. Allow me to demonstrate.

(Show BOBCAT card and insert into slot in machine.

Pick up pre-positioned awards from rear of box.)

Will the following boys and their parents please come forward.

(Follow a similar procedure for the awards of Wolf, Bear, Arrow Points, Activity Badges, and Webelos rank.)

(Cubmaster then calls for Arrow of Light recipients and their parents.)

These young men may or may not be real geniuses, but they have shown the truth of the old saying that 90% of success is perspiration. They have worked long and hard--some as long as 3 years--to achieve their goal. What they built was not a better mousetrap, but something far more valuable to the world today--a better young man. In recognition of this achievement, we can't give them a patent, but we can present them with an award that is so highly thought of that it is the only badge in the Cub Scout Program that can be worn on the Boy Scout uniform. Of course, I mean the Arrow of Light. (Present the awards to the parents to present to their sons.) I want to congratulate you and your parents. The whole Pack is proud of your accomplishment, and we're sure you'll continue to DO YOUR BEST.

PRAYER

A prayer sent to me by an online scouter!

Dear Lord,

So far today I've done all right. I haven't gossiped; haven't lost my temper; haven't been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish or overindulgent. And I'm really glad about that.

In a few moments, Lord, I'm going to get out of bed, and from then on I'm probably going to need a lot more help.

Amen.

I saw another Good Turn idea on Scouts-L

I wanted to share with the list a great idea and suggestion which I first heard about 15 years ago.

The national president of the BSA at that time, whom I believe was Arch Monson, noted that many of us had been Scouts as youth. He asked each leader to write a letter to the current head of the organization which had sponsored the unit we belonged to as a youth. He asked that we thank them for sponsoring the unit, tell them how much Scouting had meant to us as a youth, and tell a little about the kind of adult Scouting had helped us to become. Arch noted that there is always question on the part of a sponsor about whether their effort and expense is worth it and thanks of this sort are very rare. I wrote a letter to the Pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Towson, Maryland, who had sponsored Troop 750. He wrote back and was very appreciative of my letter. He brought me up to speed on what the troop was doing. (I had moved away from Towson at age 15.) May I suggest that each listmember consider writing such a letter and maybe more than one letter if you belonged to more than one unit, such as a Pack and a Troop. This is Thanksgiving time, so it is particularly appropriate. I would suggest doing it reasonably soon so it is not lost in the Christmas mail.

Neil Lupton

SONGS

☺Be A Genius

(Tune: Are You Sleeping)

Be a genius, be a genius,
Do your best, do your best.
Give science your attention
And build a Cub invention
Genius does the rest.
Genius does the rest.

☺Whoops! You're A Genius

(Tune: All Around the Mulberry Bush)

A block of wood, a piece of wire.
Or junk that seems the seediest:
Just put it all together now.
Whoops, you're a genius.

You never know the size or shape.
From biggest to the teeniest:
But put it all together now.
Whoops. You're a Genius.

Scouting is a world brotherhood organization and what better way to support the program than doing a good turn for any under developed country. I saw this post on Scouts-L and wanted to share it with my readers. A scouter named Judy has put the following out on the net.

As I mentioned in the earlier post, my brother Dave (Eagle '74) is classmates with LTC Mark Littel who is a ground force commander in eastern Bosnia. Since arriving, Mark has seen another need... and maybe some

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of our packs and troops would like to help with this project as Christmas is coming...

Here's what Mark asks...

>>I am an Army Lieutenant Colonel stationed as a ground force commander in eastern Bosnia. My purpose in writing to you today is to solicit donations for the beleaguered people here, specifically the children. As the peace continues to be maintained by us, rebuilding is slowly occurring. The children are in school, but have no computers, no school supplies (pens, paper, notebooks, coloring books or crayons, soccer balls, kick balls, basketballs, toys, etc.), and not much hope.

I ask that each of you reading this would find it in your heart to put together a package and mail it to us for this holiday season. In each case, we will ensure that it is delivered directly to children. I have never seen a need so great in my life, and have chosen to send this letter out in the hope of making this place livable for the children. I know that the hearts of Americans are very generous, and

ask that you do this as an act of kindness for the children here - they are the future of this broken land. It can be your holiday gift to the children of a war-torn country who have nothing, from we who have so very much. This is taken on as a project for our unit, so that we here can help save the children of this country, help them laugh and learn again, and show them that we, as Americans, still care about helping people here. In their classrooms there is nothing but chairs--no black boards or bulletin boards, no color, no eye-catching murals, only white walls. On behalf of these people, I ask that you send us your new and your old, your toys and your supplies, no matter the grade or the language, so we can help them maintain this peace.

>>You can send your donations to my unit at the following address:

>>

>>LTC Mark Littel

>>Commander, 2/2 CAV

>>Operation Joint Guard

>>APO AE 09789

>>We will even send pictures and video back **to you of the school that you** help if we can. No doubt you will hear directly from me and from the schools who receive your generous contributions. The best holiday gift

you can give is to those who are in great need. I have never seen a place, a people or children in greater need. Please help us make this winter a more joyous one for the children here on Bosnia. Thanks for your contributions in advance. God Bless you and the United States of America.

Sincerely,

Mark T. Littel

Commander, 2d Squadron, 2d Armored Cavalry Regiment

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Mark's e-mail address is littelm@polk-emh2.army.mil
Anything you do to help would be appreciated.

Thanks,
Judy Freshwater Polak
JFPolak@compuserve.com
Buckskin Council -- 22 counties in northwestern Va,
eastern Ky and southern
WV
My home's in the West Virginia Hills

I found this on Scouts-L several months ago. It was
written by Chuck May:

Scouter's Wife

I wrote this (OK, I "borrowed" a few of the items, but I
wrote the rest) a year ago, in honor of two Scouters'
Wives who had died in the previous year. I thought I'd
post it, and see if anyone has any others to add.

The Scouter's Wife and the Scout's Mother

(In memory of Nancy Plitt and Judy Simpson, and in
honor of all others)
If your laundry routine includes inspecting for red
shoulder tabs ... you might be a Scouter's wife or a Scout's
mother.
If a dab of Coleman fuel behind each ear is more alluring
to your husband than Chanel No. 5 ... you might be a
Scouter's wife.
If your laundry routine includes inspecting for blue cards
in shirt pockets... you might be a Scout's mother.
If a Thursday night family dinner consists of Whoppers in
the car in the church parking lot .. you might be a
Scouter's wife and a Scout's mother.
If you cook a nice pot roast for supper for the
Scoutmaster because he came straight from work to a
PLC meeting at your house, and then heat up the leftovers
for your husband when he gets home, ... you might be a
Scouter's
wife.
If your only real vacation in 5 years involves driving from
Maryland to Philmont with a carload of boys ... you might
be a Scouter's wife.
If your husband plans a "night out with the boys", and you
know that it will be a night outdoors with boys ... you
might be a Scouter's wife.
If your most memorable vacation with your husband was
being the only woman in a crew of nine men and boys on the
Allagash River in Maine .. you might be a Scouter's
wife.
If you spend your honeymoon wearing green shorts and
knee socks ... you might be a new Scouter's wife.
If your husband mutters in his sleep about a ticket, and
you know he hasn't just caught speeding .. you might be a
Scouter's wife.

BALOO'S BUGLE

If you've converted your dining room into an office, and
your garage looks like L.L. Bean's attic .. you might be a
Scouter's wife.

If your husband's tan line starts just above his knees, and
ends three inches below his knees ... you might be a
Scouter's wife.

If you have shelves of coffee mugs, and you don't drink
coffee ... you might be a Scouter's wife.

If your best china cup has a 1865 Camporee logo on it ..
you might be a Scouter's wife.

If your husband has disappeared, and you know you can
always find him at Price Club trying to get a deal on #10
cans of peaches for cobbler ... you might be a Scouter's
wife.

If you tell your husband you are expecting to hear the
pitter-patter of little feet, and he thinks the PLC meeting
is at your house tonight ... you might be a Scouter's wife.

If your husband brings home three rolls of red-white-and-
blue ribbon to be sewn into Mothers' ribbons, and says
"Don't worry, the Court of Honor isn't until tomorrow
night and we only need 15 made" ... and you don't have a
sewing machine ... and you get it done ... you might be a
Scouter's wife.

If you just know that the sun room will be finished,
right after the next Goshen Bears workend ... you might
be a Scouter's wife.

If your family car seats 8, even though there are only 4 in
your family ...you might be a Scouter's wife.

If the money collected for your memorial is used to but
an air compressor for Scout Camp, and everyone thinks
that is just right ... you were a Scouter's wife.

If you keep your Mother's ribbon, with the Eagle pin,
with you forever, .. you were a Scouter's mother.

Chuck & Nancy May, June 1996.

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SKITS

☺Boy With A Bright Idea

Scene: First boy sitting on a chair. Toys and clothes are
scattered around the room. He is in deep thought.
Several of his friends come over to see him. (They
enter).

All boys: Hi _____! What are you doing?

Boy #1: Just thinking about a bright idea.

Boy #2: Thinking about what bright idea?

Boy #1: My invention.

Boy #3: Are you inventing something?

Boy #1: Sure. I want to be famous like Alexander
Graham Bell, or Thomas Edison.

Boy #4: What do you have in mind? Maybe we can help.

Boy #1: Really? Do you want to help?

All Boys: Sure

Boy #1: O.K. (Stands up) First of all, I need a big box. _____ There is one by the bed. _____ I'll need that toy airplane. _____. I could probably use some rags. You can use my clothes there for that. Last, I'll need some kite string to tie it together. _____, there is some over there. Great! Now put everything into the box.

Boy #1: Well that just about takes care of it.

Boy #5: Takes care of what?

Boy #1: My invention! I just invented a way to get my room cleaned before my Mom gets home!

©Artistic Genius

Scene is an art show at which a number of brightly splotched canvasses are on display. The judges arrive, inspect them, and finally select one for the prize. This one more violently colored than the rest. "What imagination!" they say. "What genius!" They call for the artist, who appears in beret and flowing tie. When the winning picture is shown him, he says, "Oh, my goodness that got in by mistake. That's the canvas where I clean my brushes!"

©The Best Gift of All

Scene: All boys in the den hurry onto stage with wrapped Christmas gifts in their hands except one boy who comes in empty-handed. They greet each other and form a little group and all begin talking at once. They are on their way to school and each is telling about his gift for the teacher. One boy does not have a gift, but wears a big smile on his face. The others are frowning and grumbling and arguing about whose gift is biggest and best.

Boy #1: (Complaining about the ribbon on his gift coming off; he pulls at it and frowns.)

Smiling Boy: Let me help. (He pretends to straighten the ribbon.)

Boy #2: (In grumbling mood) I sure hope she gives me an "A" for giving her this dumb thing. (He holds up his gift for all to see and drops it.)

Smiling Boy: (Runs over and picks it up and returns it to 2nd boy.)

Boy #3: (Frowning terribly; he catches his finger in corner of his package and tears it a little; he pouts and grumbles.)

Smiling Boy: (Pats 3rd boy on the shoulder) That's all right. It's not too noticeable.

Boy #4: (Grumbles) why did my Mom make me bring this dumb thing? (He trips and falls and sends package flying)

Smiling Boy: (Picks up package and hands it to the 4th boy.)

(ALL TURN AND LOOK AT SMILING BOY)

All: Hey, where's your gift for the teacher?

Boy #1: Hey, you're the only one who's been smiling and cheerful this morning. You've been giving the best gift of all!

Boy #2: Hey that's right! He's been giving Good Will to everyone.

(With big smiles on their faces, they throw away their packages and leave the stage saying:)

BALOO'S BUGLE

All: WE'RE ALL GOING TO GIVE GOODWILL".

☺Over The Hanukkah Lights

By Miriam Myers

A dialogue for 8 boys who, each in turn lights his candle before saying his line.

Cub #1: 2,000 years and more ago ---

Cub #2: Oh pshaw, you must be fooling. 2,000 years ago-

Cub #1: That's what I said. I guess I've had some schooling. Now listen, please don't talk so much and you will hear the story of how the Jews fought long ago for Israel's faith and glory.

Cub #2: Well, go ahead.

Cub #3: On Hanukkah, our Feast of Dedication, sometime it's called the Feast of Lights, this time of celebration.

Cub #4: The wicked king, Antiochus, stepping for to face him

Cub #2: The Syrian king! I know him.

Cub #4: You silly boy! How to be quiet I wish you all would show him. (Others put fingers on their closed lips.)

Cub #5: This dreadful king forbade the Jews to keep the Law of Moses. Said he. "Each one shall surely die if he my wish opposes."

Cub #6: Some said they'd pray to gods of stone, of course, they just pretended.

But some were brave, although they knew their lives might soon be ended.

Cub #2: He'd not scare me, that crazy king, I'd shake this in his face, sir! (Shakes his fist)

And say, "How dare you interfere with me and with the Jewish people."

Cub #7: A family called the Maccabees, a father and five brothers, all said to God they would be true and soon were joined by others.

Cubs #8: Three years they fought the Syrians, at last their foes defeating.

They killed or chased them all away, their victory completing.

Cub #3: Jerusalem was all lit up in grand illumination. The people all were joining in this happy celebration.

Cub #1: Now let us celebrate today and sing in happy chorus. But first I'll bless the festal light as our fathers did before us.

(Others stand while he recites "Borochoes)

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

☺A Boy In A Toy Store (revised slightly)

Have everyone follow your actions as you sit and read this story:

This is the story of a boy whose mother left him in a large store. Apparently, the boy had been left for some time and was bored with his surroundings, so he tapped his foot to show his irritation. (TAP YOUR FOOT) He pulled a stick of chewing gum from his pocket. He unwrapped it and started to chew. (CHEW)

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He became tired of waiting for his mother and walked into the toy department. As he entered the door he saw a small lion whose head was nodding up and down. As he watched it, he, too, started to nod. (NOD) Becoming interested in the playroom, the boy picked up a horn and squeezed it in his right hand. (OPEN AND CLOSE YOUR RIGHT HAND)

He then picked up a drum stick upon a hobby-horse and started to ride. (ROCK BACK AND FORTH) When his mother found him, she jolted him to his feet. (STAND UP) But he had had a good time, so he waved to the salesperson (WAVE), while his mother tugged at his arm to hurry him along.

Here is another joke sent to me by an online friend

JOKE

There was once a couple named Nancy and Mike Tate, and it was their life's dream to have a compass company. They finally saved enough money and started the Tate's Compass Company. Luck was with them, for the first contract they acquired was to manufacture 750,000 compasses for the Boy Scouts. Nancy and Mike worked feverishly day and night to meet their deadline, and finished just before the Boy Scout Jamboree was to begin. On the day of the Boy Scout Wilderness hike, each boy

scout was given a Tate's Compass to help them find their way. Unfortunately, it was discovered a little too late that every single compass was made with the colored point of the needle facing the wrong way, so when one was facing North, the needle pointed to the South.

Needless to say, all of the boy scouts got lost and it was the biggest fiasco known in Boy Scout history. The Tate's compass company went out of business, but from this experience came the familiar adage, "He who has a Tate's is lost."

CLOSING CEREMONY

☺**1st Cub:** Everyone cannot be brilliant, everyone cannot be smart. I may not be a genius, but I can build a neat go-cart.

2nd Cub: I can dam a stream with boulders, I can climb trees to the top. I can run for blocks and blocks and never even stop.

3rd Cub: I can't solve a chemical equation or lecture on Newton's rule, but I can make a peanut butter sandwich that will really make you drool.

4th Cub: I don't know much about flowers, but smelling them is a joy. I don't think I'm a failure. I'm a genius at being a boy.

★Closing for Den Chief and six Cub Scouts

Den Chief: What you are is God's gift to you. What you make of yourself is your gift to God. Make it a good gift.

Cub #1: Work while you work.

Cub #2: Pray while you pray.

BALOO'S BUGLE

Cub #3: One thing at a time, that is the way.

Cub #4: All that you do,

Cub #5: Do with all your might.

Cub #6: Things done halfway are not done right.

★Bright Ideas

A single light bulb is illuminated in the front of the darkened room.

The Cubmaster speaks: this light bulb is pretty commonplace to people these days. But it is a fitting symbol for our theme, "Genius Night," because of how it represents Bright Ideas. Its inventor, Thomas Edison, was recognized as a genius - one of the greatest inventors of all time. Even more important, he represented what you can accomplish if you remember to live up to that part of the Cub Scout Promise which says "do your best". Even if you don't invent a better light bulb, always do your best.

WEBELOS

Fitness

☺Health habits learned in childhood tend to last a lifetime. The Fitness activity badge is designed to make Webelos more aware of good physical fitness, and what proper food and rest can do for him. That's why this activity badge will help the Webelos learn about the benefits of taking care of his body.

☺Careers/Speakers

YMCA director, health class teacher, personal trainer, coach, CPR instructor, camp staff, insurance company public relations.

☺Activities

Invite the grade school gym teacher to your meeting. Get to know them on a personal basis: Why did they become a teacher? What kind of background do they have? What sports are they currently active in? What do they like about teaching kids?

Arrange a visit to the YMCA or local health club. Tour the whole facility looking at all the machines. Meet briefly with various instructors to find out what they do. Look at a schedule of classes. Get some fitness tips from a personal trainer. Ask what they do for emergencies.

Find out if there is a nurse or doctor in your pack who would be willing to meet with your den to answer questions about health. (Have boys write the questions on cards so they are anonymous.)

☺Fancy Writing

Give each boy two pieces of paper and pencil. Ask him to remove both shoes and write his name using

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the pencil in his toes. Try each foot on different paper. Is on easier? Can you read it?

☺Jokes

Since the right side of the brain controls the left side of the body, then the left-handed people are the only ones in their right mind!

What two words in a dentist's office can make a toothache go away? You're next.

"Doctor, that ointment you gave me makes my arm smart." "In that case, rub some on your head!"

☺READYMAN

You never know when you will be called upon to help someone in an emergency --at the store, while hiking, babysitting, or elsewhere. The Readyman activity badge is designed to help the Webelos get ready for these emergencies. Youth and children are not too young to help others!

CAREERS AND SPEAKERS

Doctor, nurse, police, ambulance driver, fireman, Red Cross instructor, school or company nurse, Urgent Care facility manager, ski patrol, park ranger, hospital or emergency room worker, disaster planner.

Safety Inspection

Arrange a behind-the-scenes tour of a parent's work to review the safety procedures and precautions used there. Do they have rules posted? Have fire drills? Have First Aid Kit?

Tour a hotel, restaurant, high-rise apartment building, hospital, church or other public place and ask the same questions.

Inspect your den or pack meeting place. Plan steps for use in an emergency during a den meeting.

Plan an emergency procedures for five locations where your family usually goes, such as the church, theater, restaurant, the beach, relatives' house, etc. How do you call for help? Where would you meet if separated by a fire? What health situations are in your family?

Disasters

Talk to the Red Cross Disaster team and find out what they do to help. What equipment do they have? Where are supplies stored? How are volunteers contacted?

Who is in charge of disaster coordination for a city or region? How many agencies are on the notification list.

Be Prepared

Make a list of items, which your family would need to be prepared for a storm, electricity outage, tornado, or other significant event. Make specialized lists of items that are seasonal. Example: during wintertime blizzards you would need extra blankets, but you wouldn't need them during a severe thunderstorm in the summer.

BALOO'S BUGLE

Prepare a shelter area in your house and store some of these items there. Tape your lists on the wall. Each season review your specialized lists and add or remove items from your shelter. Be sure to check batteries and food supplies for freshness.

All-season items could include radio, candles, matches, flashlights, first aid kit, bottled water, canned food, manual can opener, rope, and eating utensils. Also consider pillows, deck of cards, pet leashes and food, life jackets, personal identification and emergency phone numbers, hammer and nails, emergency flares.

Tie Slide
Mr. Yuk

Since most poisonings involve household chemicals in the kitchen, check your own home before making this slide.

Mr. Yuk stickers are available from hospitals, doctors or poison control centers. Glue one onto a plastic milk carton lid. Hot glue a leather strip to the back for the slide loop.

Web Sites

Since Pinewood Derbies are in everyone's very near future, I thought those of you online would like to look at an excellent site for that. Explore Randy's other areas too.

Pinewood Derby page at
<http://users.aol.com/randywoo/pine/pinetip.htm>

Another great Web site that has cheers, prayers, songs, music plays while you browse. I had fun there and saw lots of good info.

<http://members.tripod.com/~toveza/>

Using my resources, I found this article and wanted to share this. The Web address is right below.

<http://www.geocities.com/Yosemite/1081/16rumor.htm>

THE 16 1/2 RUMORS ABOUT SCOUTING

Call them rumors or lies, we all fall for them once.

This article was printed in The Scouter's Journal by Colin Wallace (a Canadian Scouter from Ontario) and was retyped for this page by me. I hope you enjoy it as much as I did.

Pssst! Did you hear about.....?

And so continues another rumor. Rumors are strange creatures. They inhabit only the periphery of reality, but everyone acknowledges their existence.

Nobody knows where rumors come from and, although they're shared only with a few close personal friends sworn to absolute secrecy, nobody knows where they end

up. No one likes to be thought of as a gossip monger, but everyone loves to listen to the latest rumor.

Scouting is not immune to rumors. In fact, we have more rumors than you can shake a thumbstick at. The trick is to recognize that they have only a slim basis in fact and to treat them with the disdain they richly deserve (before you pass them along).

To help you recognize Scouting scuttlebutt, I've compiled a starter set of 16 1/2 most common rumors in Scouting. Of course, you won't always hear them quoted in exactly these terms, variations abound, but you'll certainly find they cover the same ideas.

1. It'll take you only a couple hours a week. Its authorship has been lost in the mists of time, but this gem probably surfaced as far back as 1908 when the first Scouters were being recruited. Being a committed, dedicated Scouter (is there any other kind?) takes an average of at least seven hours, 52 minutes, and 36 seconds a week.

2. The parents will help you. Sure, some parents will help you, but they will be the same few people every time. Remember, however, that the amount of parental help you receive is directly proportional to the amount of parental involvement you encourage. If you don't ask, you won't get.

3. You have to wear a uniform only from the waist up. Originally, this may have been an attempt to soften the paramilitary label often hung on Scouting. Certainly, no one can accuse a bunch of half-dressed slobes of resembling anything military. If the members of your group look like the rear guard of a peasant revolt (to quote the late John Sweet), who's setting that example? Surely not you?

4. Your Unit commissioner will visit you regularly. While you're waiting, try to accept that commissioner visits are secondary to district commissioner meetings, where important matters are discussed. To death. Some onus is on you, the Scoutmaster, to identify your needs. Don't be shy. If you need help, yell for help!

5. You don't have to take training if you don't want to. Everyone knows that any adult Scouter can fool a bunch of kids, right? Who needs special training, right? What could you possibly learn? Well, with an attitude like that, probably not too much. But, would you want your kids coming to your meeting with the same attitude.

6. The community will support you. They will support you. They'll give you their newspapers in paper drives. They'll donate food during Scouting of Food campaigns. But they won't actually come out to your meetings to help you run an exciting program.

7. You don't have to go outdoors if you don't want to. A fallacy based on the premise that, if God had wanted us to go outdoors during cold winter nights, He would have given us a few more strategically placed fat cells to insulate us. Our biggest problem here is that we start indoors and look for a reason to go outdoors. Try starting all your troop's activities and events outdoors. Then,

examine why you have to go indoors. Go on, try it at least for a month.

8. You'll love every minute of it. Let's face it, you'll have moments of deep, dark, desolate despair when you think your program will never work. Luckily, these moments will be vastly outweighed by exhilarating flashes of sheer delight when your program does work.

9. The kid's are all keen as mustard. Youthful enthusiasm tends to ebb and flow, but, at any given moment, at least on kid's enthusiasm for Scouting reaches it zenith.

Identify that one kid and run your program for him or her. Reward and encourage the enthusiasm. (easier said than done because, every week, a different kid peaks.)

10. Football in the parking lot will keep them amused until you get a real program going. This rumor, like every rumor, has a grain of truth in it. Any game will keep them amused, but we're not in the amusement business. We're trying to develop the future citizens of our communities and nation, mentally, socially, spiritually, and physically. That's a lot to expect from a pick-up football game.

11. It won't cost you a dime. It will, however, cost you several dollars- for uniforms, transportation to and from events, training literature, annual registration, and badges. Yes, your troop will have a budget for program items. You will still have to fork over some cash, usually when you can least afford it. Think of it as an investment in your product.

12. Your family will be thrilled by your involvement. Your family will initially be very proud of your altruism. Their pride will be replaced shortly by a sense of loss as you become more and more immersed in an organization they don't understand. Examine your priorities. If Scouting is Numero Uno, review your list one more time.

13. The youth you serve will thank you. They will thank you, but not in your lifetime.

14. Their parents will thank you. Only mentally, for giving them a brief respite on Tuesday nights from their onerous task of raising young Johnny (or Daniel or Nick...).

15. Your country will thank you. Not really. The Governor may one day shake your hand in grateful acknowledgment of your contribution to the development of youth, but don't hold your breath.

16. Scouts are action-oriented. There's almost no paperwork. If we subtracted from the number of trees planted each year by Scout groups across the country, the number of trees needed to provide the paper used in administering the Scouting program, the net gain would be about three trees. Three small trees. 16 1/2. Going back to the basics would solve all our problems. Retrospective rubbish that rates only a half point on the scuttlebutt scale. We're trying to develop leaders, not nostalgists. The past was a blast, but that was then. This is now. Current problems need modern solutions. By all means let's keep this movement moving in the best direction-forward.

Or course, you'll encounter local rumors peculiar to your own troop, district, or council. Sorry, I can't help you there. You're on your own with them, but don't worry. They pale to insignificance beside the basic set I've listed here (unless it's the one about that Scouter in the neighboring troop who..... Well, you know what I mean. 'Nough said.)

And while you're tilting at the rumor mills, draw comfort from the great truths of Scouting-proof against any rumors to the country.

THE UNDENIABLE TRUTHS OF SCOUTING

1. Scouting makes a difference to this country. Scouting has made and continues to make a significant contribution to the spiritual, mental, physical, and social development of millions of young people. Its very existence as an organization demonstrates a national commitment to certain democratic principles that are an integral part of a free society.

2. Scouting helps the world. With more than 80 years experience in over 150 countries and more than 16 million current members, Scouting is an influence to be reckoned with- not in terms of political clout, but in terms of positive direction it has given to so many lives over the years.

3. Scouting will change you. But only if you actively subscribe to its aim and principles. And only if you want it to.

Resources:

- ★Heart of American Council
- ❖Daniel Webster Council
- ☺Viking Council
- ☞West Mich. Shores Council BSA
- *Greater St.Louis Area Council
- ▣40TH Mountainview Pack, Canada

I am happy (thrilled) to report that the Bugle is now read in all 10 provinces in Canada. I would like to say "Hey" from Alabama!



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