



June 2017

Scout Law/Theme: Trustworthy/Let the Games Begin

Interest Topic: Camp Fire Etiquette

Webelos Topic: Art Explosion

Arrow of Light Topic: Fix It

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Campfire Etiquette and Safety *2016-2017 Roundtable Planning Guide*

By Ben Oliphant

Campfires are fun and a wonderful part of camping tradition. It is a chance for the Cub Scout to learn and experience public speaking, acting, being part of a group, and using their imagination to create skits, songs, and jokes. It is also a chance for them to understand that kindness is important when developing material, and that bullying and hazing are not to be tolerated.

What do you do if someone presents an inappropriate skit or song?

Possible answer: The emcee steps up and thanks the performers, then calls up the next group. An explanation can be given later about why they were escorted off the stage. Do not humiliate or criticize anyone in front of the group.

What if there is a fire ban where we wanted to have our campfire?

Be sure and check before you go, and remember that a campfire program does not need actual flames to be a fun and memorable activity.

It's raining. What do we do?

Is there an indoor area, or a large dining fly that can be used for cover?

Our unit is not allowed to camp, or many of our Cub Scouts leave an event before time for a campfire.

Hold your campfire activity before breakfast or right after lunch to allow those Scouts who cannot stay overnight to participate in the fun.

Fire Etiquette and Safety

In the United States, nine out of 10 forest, grass, and brush fires—all known as wildfires—are caused by people being careless. Following these helpful campfire tips can help prevent forest fires:

Reinforcing Leave No Trace Principles in Campfire Programs

Know Before You Go should be followed when conducting a pack campfire program. Research your local county and state fire restrictions. If there are fire bans—meaning no open flames—an artificial fire can be used.

Trash Your Trash—Pack it in, pack it out. It is your responsibility to pack out everything that you packed in.

Be Careful With Fire—Only build fires in designated fire rings. These pits should be on gravel or dirt, never on grass. Always have someone keep an eye on your fire until it is out.

Campfire Safety

Campfires can be very dangerous if safety rules are not followed. Below are some tips to ensure that this favorite camping tradition is safe and fun for all! • Clear the area of any dry leaves and sticks, and make sure that vehicles, clothing, camping gear, and other flammable items are placed at a considerable distance from the fire.

- Check the weather forecast. Even a small amount of wind can blow burning debris or sparks onto a flammable surface or YOU!

- Never cut live trees or branches for the fire.

- Only wood should be placed in the campfire pit area. Never place in the fire pit:

- Containers that have had chemicals in them (creating dangerous gases)

- Items with glass (Glass does not burn. It heats up and explodes.)

- Aerosol cans (possible explosion)

- Aluminum cans (Aluminum cans do not burn, but only break into smaller and smaller pieces, creating aluminum dust which is harmful to breathe.)

- Establish a campfire safety circle around the fire. The recommended distance from the edge of the fire is 4 feet to establish a clear boundary for the Scouts. Adults only may enter into the circle to tend to the fire.

- Circle the campfire pit area with rocks.

Art Explosion

By Ben Oliphant

I use the Art Explosion as a go to or plan B, when other things aren't possible or just go wrong at the last minute. Almost all of my Cubs get the Art pin. We just do some of it anytime to settle down or take it easy. Most of the projects are fun and easy and don't take a lot of planning.

Requirement 1: Almost any type of art showing or exhibit or get together counts. Then your scout only needs to discuss the art with an adult to complete this requirement. Here are some art exhibit helps:

*Tooele County Arts Festival – Pratt Aquatic Park, June 15, 16, 17 – 2017. This is a great opportunity for this requirement, whether they go as a den or with family. Make sure you tell your Webelos parents so they can sign off if they go.

*Stansbury Art and Literary Society- They do an annual art show, usually at the TATC. There is not much advertised about it, but it is a nice display of local artist. You can find them on Facebook and here: <http://stansburyartandlit.org/> or <http://www.saals.org/>

*Tooele City Hall – sometimes there is an art display in the lobby. They also offer classes. Go to www.Tooelecitey.org for classes.

*Tooele Education Foundation – Every year they sponsor a traveling art exhibit. It is at a Different school each year.

*Keep an eye out in Happenings section of the Tooele Transcript. There could be something Advertised in there or elsewhere in the Tooele Transcript.

Requirement 2: For the self-portraits, my scouts have drawn themselves as comic book characters, video game characters, Super Hero's, but they can do whatever they want. If they do it in pencil the first time, have them do it in marker the next, just needs to be 2 different mediums.

Requirement 3: WOW!!! This is a huge, fun, and easy requirement! You need just 2 art projects to fulfill it. A – I are suggestions of what to do. Most any art projects will work.

A- I just took them outside and let them do an outdoor drawing. Don't have enough clip boards? Make them out of heavy cardboard and tape the paper down with blue painters tape on the corner. Hook the pencils to a string and tape it down on the bottom so you don't lose the pencils.

B- Me and my scouts have played with clay and it's fun!

C- You can make a neckerchief slide out of hardening clay ex. Femo clay, Sculpy clay, or other brand that hardens. Salt dough or paper Mache would work too.

D- I have never done this with my scouts, making a sculpture or a mobile with found objects. Sounds fun. Make sure the found objects are clean and you have the proper tools. Why couldn't you use recyclable objects?

E- I have shown my scouts how to make origami baskets. Any origami pattern would be good. There is a helmet in the book. (Page 267-268) Make sure you keep it simple!

F- I don't know much about computer illustrations & the software, but I have played with

G- If your going to make Class B uniforms for the summer (pack t-shirts) you could use iron on's and get the scouts involved. Make sure you talk about safety using an iron and have lots of supervision!

H- I haven't done this with my scouts. You will have to use photo editing software on their pictures (minimum of 10)

I- I haven't done this one either. My son has created a comic book, so this seems a bit easier. You need minimum 4 panels and story is centered on 1 point of the scout law. This sounds fun!

Requirement 4 (optional) – You should encourage your Scouts to show off their art work. Hard work deserves Kudos, especially if you're a Scout!

Toolbox Basics

My own toolbox contains way too much for just a simple toolbox. I've been collecting tools for a long time, and that's not what you need. What we want here is an introductory toolbox. It should contain just those tools needed to complete eight of the projects in requirement 4. You may want to decide ahead of time, which projects to work on, and then go from there.

How you want to complete this requirement is up to you. You can send home a list of tools for the boys to acquire, or you could bring your own tools and let the boys put it together. However, I think it would super awesome to have their own toolbox. I've compiled a simple list for most basic projects.

- Regular Screw Driver
- Phillips Screw Driver
- Measure
- Level
- Crescent Wrench
- Allen Wrench
- Standard wrench set including sizes: 3/8, 1/2, 5/8, and 3/4. These are the most common sizes. I prefer the wrench with one side open and the other boxed. Sometime you can find one wrench with two different sizes on either end.
- Small hammer
- Paint brush

Webelos or Family Project

This is an activity that works well either as a project to be completed at home, or you can do it all together. If you decide it works best as a family project, communicate with a parent and give them a simple check list. If you're going to work together, then you need to come up with a location that everyone can meet in; such as a garage or basement home. Perhaps someone in your area is renovating their home. If they are willing, and you meet the requirements for safe scouting, you can meet there.

Building a Toolbox Container

Although assembling a toolbox is not a requirement, it is still a fun activity, and it would complete part of the *Build It* activity. See where I'm going? Yeah, combing two activities is acceptable.

Not on the List

Can you think of a simple project that is not listed in the requirements? That's okay. If there's a project that needs doing, and the scout can do it safely, by all means let them. There's some leeway in what the scouts do.

Projects I Completed / Ideas

One project that worked well was fixing a drawer handle. I used some 3-quarter-inch scrap wood and drilled two holes, attached a drawer, handle and let them practice. It ended up looking like a shield and they used it as such. I purposely left the handle loose and let them tighten it.

Another project used some two-by-four scraps and Sheetrock, so it was similar to a picture frame. Using a stud finder we were able to locate the studs, hammer in a nail, and also use a wall anchor. Then, using a level, I showed them how to hang a picture. Yes, I did end up with some holes in the wall, but it didn't matter because it was just used materials. Hint: ask around a find someone who might have some old materials.

I've also demonstrated how to plane a door and pre-drill a screw hold. Those can be fairly simple. You might also want to show how to trim and paint. I haven't done that with the scouts yet, but it's certainly doable.