Subject: Hints For Song Leaders

Did you ever see someone get up in front of a group
and-say
something like this: "Now we're going to sing `Home on
the Range' -
ready to sing?" He probably wondered why everybody
started at
a different time in different keys or didn't start at
all.
Singing is fun. Leading and teaching songs can be fun
too.
But there are certain sensible rules a song leader must
follow.
These rules aren't difficult. You don't have to sing
like
Caruso or wave a baton like Toscanini to lead songs
well.
Many top song leaders are only average singers
themselves,
and many get excellent results with a minimum of arm
motions.
So can you. Here are some tips:

How To Lead A Song

1 Smile at your group. Relax. Radiate confidence and
enthusiasm,
   even if you don't feel particularly confident or
enthusiastic.
   Morale is catching.

2 Tell them the name of the song they're going to
sing.
   Always start with a rousing, well-known "warm-up"
number,
   so everybody including you, can sing with confidence.

3 Be sure to give the pitch. Sing a few bars yourself
or have
   a couple of bars played, if an instrument is
available.

4 Start the singing with a slight upward arm motion,
then
   a decisive downward motion, (a downbeat) and begin
the
   song yourself. Don't worry if some don't start with
the
   first note - they'll join in quickly. By the way,
you're
   smiling, aren't you?

5 Beat time with a simple up-and-down motion of the arm –
   but make it definite and brisk. You're in command.

6 Control volume by raising your hands for loudness, lowering
   them for softness.

7 Move around a little, inject a little pep and personality.
   Keep smiling.

8 Spark enthusiasm by dividing the crowd for a song or two.
   Groups sing separately or when you point to them, then all
   together. Vary straight singing with occasional humming,
   whispering or rhythm clapping.

9 Stop before you've stopped. Leave them wanting more; not
   glad that you stopped.

These tips came from the Mt. Norris Scout Reservation
Unofficial Book of Scout Songs.