

# Ideas for a GREAT Pack Meeting and Getting a Little Help While You're at it

Presented by Bob Luttrell, Pack 290, San Bruno

## Pack Meeting Essentials

- Family oriented—must be fun for the whole family
- Good meeting site and logistics (however, don't be afraid to use alternative meeting sites during the year)
  - Invest in a small sound system if you need to
- Establish a strong theme for each meeting and have fun with the theme
- If you have more than 10 kids, set up a rotation of activities/games whenever possible
- Always give out awards; make every kid receiving an award feel like it's their special moment
- Always recognize new Scouts and any kids just there checking the pack out along with their parents and any other family members
- Keep meetings to between one and one-and-one-half hours
- Involve the dens in the program (parents are there to see their kids in action)
  - Have dens help with set-up and clean-up
  - Rotate responsibility for opening and closing ceremonies
  - Ask dens to put-on a skit or lead a song at least 2 or 3 times during the year
- Have meeting program done well in advance of the meeting; review draft program with pack committee and solicit their input
- Have handouts covering upcoming pack activities (a hike, Scouting for Food, etc.)
- Have a good gathering activity
  - "Find someone who" scavenger hunt game
  - Displays (Pinewood Derby cars before the Pinewood Derby races)
  - Feather games
  - Find someone with a coin in their pocket game
  - Have an area set aside where kids can learn and practice knot tying
  - Nature scavenger hunt outdoors during warm weather months
  - Put out stamps on a table which kids can go through (and ultimately keep) as they arrive
- Don't be afraid to bring in outside talent
  - Someone with interesting stories about your community's history
  - A local community figure or athlete
- Recognize adult leaders as often as you can
  - Mention a successful den activity which a den leader led during the month
  - Tie recognition to event (recognize popcorn chair when popcorn awards are presented to Scouts)
  - Have den leaders help with awards presentations
  - Have activity/program chairs make announcements and help with recognizing Scout participants
  - Special recognition at first pack meeting of the year and at the Blue and Gold dinner
- Offer one or more games for Scouts and siblings to play
- Develop some type of "Spirit" award which is presented to a den each month
- Cubmaster's minute
- Optional program items for a Pack meeting:
  - Songs
  - Craft project
  - Story
- Uniform inspection in January
- Ask one or more parents to take pictures or videos at your pack meetings.

- Dim the lights whenever you can to add a special effect to opening and closing ceremonies
- Visual presentation
  - Power Point presentation of various pack pictures taken during the year, set to music
  - Show a compilation of some of the videos taken at pack activities.

### **Pack meeting theme/location ideas:**

- Conduct a campfire program at a local park; roast marshmallows afterwards
- Raingutter regatta pack meeting with a fun pirate theme
  - Walk the plank (kids walk forward blindfolded on a 2x4) pin the tail on the pirate game
  - Raingutter regatta boat racing area
  - Area where kids can make paper pirate hats and hooks
  - Magnetic fishing game area
- Pinewood derby pack meeting (if you don't have a track, partner with another unit which does)
- Hold a pack meeting in the dining/activities room of a local senior community (works best around Christmas) and invite all of the seniors to attend.
  - You can raffle items (seniors love raffles)
  - You can donate a Christmas tree and help the seniors decorate it that evening
  - Scout families can bring holiday treats to share with seniors
  - Scouts can adopt a senior and send that senior a Christmas card (you should see the Scout's face when the senior sends a return card addressed to that Scout)
  - You can also sing Christmas carols with the seniors and offer various holiday crafts activities
- Hold a pack meeting in a local park during a warm weather month and tailor the program accordingly. You can also work with the city/county to have them suggest a service project which could be performed just prior to the start of your pack meeting (ie. Service project from 6:30-7:30; pack meeting from 7:30-8:15)
  - Knot tying
  - First aid
  - Capture the flag game
- Conduct a pack Olympics
- Conduct a pack bike rally
- Native American theme with a local Native American dance team and/or storyteller.
- Teamwork theme with a rotation of games designed to cultivate teamwork within each den:
  - Treasure hunt outdoors (den works together to solve clues)
  - Kim's game
  - Team shuffleboard
  - Cub Scout knowledge relay race
- Model rocketry theme (make the rockets at your pack meeting and then shoot them off the next Saturday morning)