

Critters, Cubs & Campfires



June 2002

Campfire Opening Ceremony

Personnel: Narrator and 7 Cub Scouts (each with hi part written on a card or memorized)

Equipment: Real or artificial campfire, seven candles

Cubmaster: Welcome to the Cub Scout campfire. Akela is amont us. Let us draw from this campfire all its vibrance and warmth, the secrets of Cub Scouting and the spirit of brotherhood.

Cub #1: In its light, we see new chances to be helpful and do our best.

Cub #2: From its warmth, we strengthen the bonds of fellowship and learn how to get along with others.

Cub #3: From the stones that ring the fire and keep its power in check, we learn how we can curb our tempers and become good citizens.

Cub #4: From the smoke that rises out of the fire, we learn to lift our eyes upward and worship God.

Cub #5: The spark that started this fire reminds us that little Good Turns can lead to greater deeds.

Cub #6: Just as the fire needs wood to burn bright, so do we need care and the love of our family to burn brightly.

Cub #7: In its leaping flames, we see the fun of Cub Scouting and the joys of life.

Outdoor Code Opening Ceremony for a Den

Before taking your den on an outing, use this repeat-after-me method and explanation of the Outdoor Code; it can be a valuable tool in helping the boys understand what is expected of them.

Den Leader: As an American, I will do my best to be clean in my outdoor manners.
(Boys repeat.)

Assistant Den Leader explains: I will treat the outdoors as a heritage. I will improve it for myself and others. I will keep my trash and garbage out of America's waters, fields, woods and roadways.

Den Leader: Be careful with fire, (Boys repeat.)

Assistant Den Leader explains: I will prevent wildfire. I will build my fire in a safe place and be sure it is out before I leave.

Den Leader: Be considerate in the outdoors, (Boys repeat.)

Assistant Den Leader explains: I will treat public and private property with respect. I will remember that the use of the outdoors is a right that I can lose by abuse.

Den Leader: Be conservation minded. (Boys repeat.)

Assistant Den Leader explains: I will learn how to practice good conservation of soil, waters, forest, minerals, grasslands, wildfire and energy. I will urge others to do the same.

Good Deeds Closing Ceremony

Personnel: 6 Cub Scouts

Equipment: Stars of different sizes for the boys to hold

Cub #1: Lord Baden-Powell, the founder of Scouting, said to Scouts everywhere:

Cub #2: “I often think when the sun goes down, the world is hidden by a big blanket from the light of heaven...

Cub #3: “but the stars are little holes pierced in that blanket by those who have done good deeds in this world.

Cub #4: “The stars are not all the same size, some are big, some are little, as some men have done great deeds and some have done small deeds...

Cub #5: “But they have all made their holes in the blanket by doing good before they went to heaven.”

Spider Web Advancement

Props: Spider web made of paper, string, fish net, Halloween net, etc.; spider or bug made of plastic or paper for each Cub Scout with the recognition attached, then hooked into the web.

Cubmaster: We've been having a lot of fun this month with bugs and other creations in nature. Tonight, we want to honor those in our pack who have really "stuck to the task" of advancing. They didn't "bug out" when things got tough—they just kept crawling along until they completed their goals. Let's honor the following boys for their advancement achievements. (Call each rank in turn. Let each boy take his bug from the web, give the badge to the parents to present. Give a bug-like cheer to each as deserved.)

Other Advancement Ideas

Wrap up awards like tin foil dinners. Display around a fake log campfire in front of audience. If you're having an outdoor campfire program, be careful not to get these too close to the fire.

Attach awards to a small bag of marshmallows with the following saying: "Around the campfire, these are the best—just like you! Congratulations on earning your _____."

A Lesson for the Big Bugs

BEE(S)	Buzz-buzz	ANTS	Hup, two, three, four
FROG(S)	Croak-croak	WOODS	(All sounds together)
MOSQUITO(S)	Bite, bite		

This is a story about Billy and his family and their adventures in the WOODS. One fine spring day, Billy’s family decided it was a good day for a picnic in the WOODS where they could enjoy nature. They packed a nice lunch and left on their outing.

As soon as they arrived at their destination, they picked out a nice spot to sit and have their picnic. Billy and his brother ran off to chase a FROG. They heard some BEES gathering nectar, and watched some ANTS busy at work. They even waved away some MOSQUITOS, feeling right at home with their natural friends.

When they got back to the picnic area, they began telling the rest of the family about the WOODS, the BEES, the ANTS, the FROGS, and even the MOSQUITOS. Dad listened intently as he opened another sandwich and carelessly threw the wrapper on the ground. Sister threw her soda can under a bush, and ran off to chase a FROG that hopped by. Mom threw her napkin on the ground and jumped up in disgust. “That does it!” she exclaimed. “The ANTS seem to have taken over our lunch.”

Dad stretched out for a nap, and had just about dozed off, when he heard Sister scream. She had been stung by a BEE. Mom took care of her, so Dad tried to sleep again. But his time, the pesky MOSQUITO would not leave him alone. Finally he announced they were all going home.

Billy asked, “Why do we have to leave now?” Dad replied, “Well, Billy, it seems we aren’t wanted by the WOODS. We sure haven’t been treated very well. The MOSQUITOS are eating me alive, the ANTS took over our lunch, and a BEE stung your sister.”

Billy said, “It seems to be that the WOODS and the MOSQUITOS and the ANTS and the BEES are trying to tell us something.” “What’s that?” asked Dad. “Well,” said Billy, “Just look around here and you will see that we haven’t been very nice visitors in the WOODS. Look at all the trash we’ve thrown around. I think we’re the worst bugs of all—litterbugs!”

So the family started to clean up the mess and, afterwards, they all felt better. They took a nice walk through the WOODS, listening to the sounds. They actually enjoyed the buzzing of the BEES, the croaking of the FROGS, and they even watched an army of ANTS at work. When they returned home, they were tired, but happy they had learned an important lesson that day—Don’t be a litterbug!

Getting Directions

A lone mountain man is trudging through the wilderness and comes to a clump of trees (boys with their backs to the audience and each wearing a sign reading “Tree”).

Mountain Man: I’m tired and I guess I’m lost, too. Now, which way is west? Seems like I remember my old Cubmaster saying you could tell north by looking for moss on the north side of the trees.

(Trees turn around to face audience. Each holds a sign with a pointing arrow and name of a city: San Francisco, San Jose, Los Angeles, New York, etc.)

Mountain Man: Thanks, trees. That beats moss anytime. (All run off.)

Giant Caterpillar

A group of boys are in line, bending over to represent a giant caterpillar. Sheets or blankets are draped over them.

The explorer who has captured this monster tells the audience he would like to have them watch this phenomenal animal devour food. He sticks a box of fruit into the caterpillar’s mouth – and it eats it up (boys underneath shake tin cans filled with rocks and move up and down to give the appearance of digesting food). Contents of the box are emptied and the boy in the rear tosses out the empty box.

Next, the explorer feeds the caterpillar a paper sack filled with food. The same procedure is followed, with the sack thrown out in pieces.

Finally, the caterpillar grabs the explorer. After a great commotion, articles of clothing which have been concealed under the sheets are tossed out, giving the appearance of undressing the victim (the explorer). The caterpillar makes a hasty exit with the victim under the sheet.

APPLAUSE

A Frog's First Aid for Bumps: Rubbit, rubbit, rubbit

Giant Beehive: Tell the group to buzz like bees. When your hand is up, they should buzz loudly, when it's low, they buzz softly. Start raising and lowering slowly, then increase speed.

Spider Cheer: Walk all four fingers on one hand up the other arm and when you get to your face...SCREAM!

Butterfly Cheer: Palms facing you, cross arms and interlock thumbs, flutter fingers and lift arms up to create a moving butterfly.

RUN-ONS

Cub #1: What did the botanist get when he crossed poison ivy with a four leaf clover?

Cut #2: I don't know, what?

Cub #1: A rash of good luck!

Cub #1: How do you kill a fly?

Cut #2: I don't know, how?

Cub #1: Call in the S.W.A.T. team.

Cub #1: Which pine would you say has the sharpest needles?

Cut #2: The porcupine.

Cub #1: What's the best way to prevent infection caused by biting insects?

Cut #2: Don't bite any insects.

WEB SITES

<http://www1.bos.nl/~bijlmakers/entomology/begin.htm>

Entomology for Beginners - the basics of insect study.

Bird Watching Is So Grand*Tune: A Hunting We Will Go*

Binoculars in our hands,
 Spying out the land,
 In the air and in the trees,
 Bird watching is so grand.

All colors and shapes they come,
 Yellows, reds, and blues,
 Robins, bluebirds, chickadees
 And eagles flying, too.

Stop, look and listen,
 Hoot owls and quacking ducks,
 Hummingbirds and tweety birds
 You'll hear with any luck.

Binoculars in our hands,
 Spying out the land,
 In the air and in the trees
 Bird watching is so grand.

Itsy Bitsy Spider

Itsy bitsy spider	(1 st)
Went up the water spout.	(2 nd)
Down came the rain,	(3 rd)
And washed the spider out.	(4 th)
Out came the sun	(5 th)
And dried up all the rain.	(6 th)
And the itsy bitsy spider	(7 th)
Went up the spout again.	(8 th)

Actions:

Before you begin, crouch slightly, holding one arm in front with fingers spread. Shake the hand gently to represent the spider. Start by stomping an eight count with your foot.

Sing with a husky voice:

1st & 2nd lines – starting low, have your “spider” jump up the spout.

3rd line – jump in the air while throwing both raised arms down in a vigorous motion.

4th line – make sweeping motions with both hands and arms across body

5th & 6th lines – Hold hands in a circle over your head while jumping in a circle and smiling broadly.

7th & 8th lines – same as lines 1 & 2

CIRCLE BIRD

Cut 1-inch-wide strips of different colors of construction paper. For the body, use six strips to make circles of different sizes. Place one inside the other, as shown, and staple. Make the head of two circles of different sizes, and staple it to the body. Stack several strips one on top of the other and staple them to the bottom of the body to form a tail. Trim the tail strips to different lengths and fringe them. Eyes are circles of paper glued in place. For the beak, fold a short strip of paper and glue in place. Shape end of beak with scissors.



EAGLE PICTURE

Design the body and wings of the eagle by overlapping leaves. Cut the head of the eagle from construction paper. The leaves may be painted lightly with brown tempera.

BIRD FEEDERS

You can make a bird feeder from a variety of scrap items. Fill your completed feeder with seeds, suet, raisins, crumbs, etc., and tie it to a tree with heavy string or cord.

1. Cut a hole in the lower side of a plastic bleach bottle, which has been washed and rinsed well. Then glue the bottle to an aluminum pie tin.
2. Use a mesh bag from onions or potatoes.
3. Scoop out an orange or a grapefruit.
4. Fill a plastic berry-basket with suet.
5. Roll a pinecone in peanut butter and seeds.
6. Cut a large square hole through two opposite sides of a milk carton, leaving a border on all four sides. Lay a dowel across the bottom and secure it with string.
7. Remove the cardboard tube from a coat hanger. Insert the open ends of the wire into a corn cob.



Sparrow Fight

Make a 6-foot circle on the ground. Two players go into the circle, grasp their ankles with their hands, and try to upset the their opponent or shoulder him out of the circle.

Insect Hunt

Give each player a pencil and paper, and have them stand in a circle, facing inward. On the back of each player, pin a slip of paper with the name of an insect written on it. On signal, all players try to write down the insect names of all the other players while avoiding showing their own. After two or three minutes, end the game. Winner is the one with the most insect names on his paper.

Birds Fly

All players stand in a line with hands on hips facing the leader. In succession, the leader calls out the name of an animal, followed by the word “fly,” i.e., “Robins fly!” “Pigs fly!” “Ducks fly!” “Horses fly!” “Spiders fly!” If the animal is, in fact, one that flies, the boys immediately make flapping motions with their arms. If a player makes a flapping motion for an animal that doesn’t fly, or fails to immediately flap for one that does, he must take one step back.

The leader may try to confuse the players by flapping for animals that don’t fly while remaining motionless for those that do.

The winner is the player closest to the leader after a specified time.

Bird and Bug

This is a fast moving game. “It” is the Bird who must catch the Bugs (thread spools on a 3 ft length of string).

Draw a 3-4 ft circle on the ground. Draw another circle around this one, about 2-3 ft wider than the first. The Bird stands in the inner circle holding a can. The other boys stand outside the larger circle and roll their Bugs into the inner circle. The Bird tries to catch them with his can before the boys pull their Bugs back. (The Bird cannot step outside his circle.) A Bug who is caught becomes the Bird.

Chicken Relay

Cub Scouts line up relay fashion. A basket for each team is set some distance away. Cub Scouts hold a balloon between their knees and run to basket to “lay egg.” Den finishing first wins.

The Feather Game

Divide the Den into two teams and seat the teams on opposite sides of a long table. In the center of the table place a small feather. The object of the game is for each team to blow the feather off the opposite side of the table. The team that succeeds in doing this scores one point and the feather is replaced in the center of the table—letting the fun begin again. During play, hands must be kept under the table.

Bird Nest Cookies

You can make cookies that look like bird nests.

Combine in a bowl:

- 3 cups crispy rice cereal
- 1 cup shredded coconut

Mix and bring to a boil while stirring:

- 1/3 cup light corn syrup
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 3/4 cup peanut butter
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

Remove from heat. Stir in the cereal and the coconut. Let is cool, then shape into birds' nests. Fill with jellybean "eggs."

Insect in Amber Gelatin Mold

For this recipe (which serves 4) you will need:

- 1 package peach gelatin
- Insect-shaped candy
- 4 small round bowls

Follow directions on gelatin package and pour into small bowls. Put in refrigerator for approximately one hour, or until it starts to set up. Remove bowls and suspend candy insects in center of mold, then replace in refrigerator. When completely set, dip bowls in warm water to loosen, invert and unmold on plate.