

CUBMASTER TIPS THAT WORKED FOR ME

Bruce Kawanami (bjkbb@hotmail.com)

- **FUN**

Above all else, have fun. You are contagious. Do not worry about your peers, your job is to connect with the Tiger Cubs.

The kids want to have fun and the parents want to see their kids doing something. I figured if the kids enjoyed it and wanted to come back, then they would be active and get exposure at the pack meeting. Boy fun is loud and gross – I planned around that concept.

- **USE YOUR LEADERS**

Use your den leaders as they have a pulse on the pack. They often have great suggestions. Work with your Committee Chair and take advantage of the leader meeting.

- **THEMES**

Use themes for your Pinewood derbies and give prizes (recognition) to those cars that decorate to the theme. Allow all the scouts to vote on the best theme design. We allowed each scout to vote for the top three and compile aggregate points. First try to use the monthly scouting theme, but know that a properly chosen theme will confound the Super Dad that must win. For example, the ‘Pokemon’ theme was a huge success since no one over the age of 17 knew what these creatures were. We’ve also used ‘Circus’ and ‘Cartoons’.

- **ACTIVITIES**

Outside activities is one of the greatest enrichments to this program. We called them family outings. At first we had an outings coordinator, but if no one steps up, you can try to have each den sponsor one outing a year. Check the Pow Wow manual for places to go. I fondly remember a tour of the San Jose Arena, the Monarch Butterflies at Twin Bridges, roller skating, ice skating, cub camping at Uvas Meadows, etc. There are a ton of local things to do and see. There may not be a huge turnout, sometimes five families would be considered successful, but it really adds to the pack program. Have sign-ups at the pack meeting and announce well in advance so people can prepare.

One organized activity is to have a Cubannapolis race on a weekend. Scouts have to ‘wear’ a cardboard vehicle and race it around a large, park area sized track. We did about three laps, with each lap requiring the ‘driver’ to get out of his vehicle and re-fuel with some Kool-Aid or other drink. There were also track obstacles, such as falling rocks (plastic bags filled with wadded newspaper), a water hazard (large squirt guns), and even a Frisbee throw. Make it fun! And again, use a theme for the vehicles.

- **PACK PRIDE**

Develop some pack pride - have a pack T-Shirt design contest, with the winning design going on a number of shirts to be sold to the pack. The winner gets a free shirt!

- **PLANNING**

Plan your pack meeting. I always carried my clipboard. It had the agenda, which applauds I would use, and some spare stuff to fill empty moments. People thought I could improvise so well – it was all on the clipboard.

The December pack meeting was a low turnout, so we made it shorter and less structured. Each den sponsored a Christmas song and led the rest of us. We also had a dessert auction to raise money. The boys love an auction! Sell poker chips, 4/\$1, set a limit.

Early arrivers would have to ‘Guess the Stuff’. Keeps them focused to the end of the meeting when the winner was announced.