

Winter Wonderland



December 2002

Holiday Opening Ceremony

The Cubmaster lights a candle while explaining that the flame represents the spirit of Cub Scouting—of helping other people and giving goodwill. Also on the table are other candles, one for each Cub Scout den. In turn, an appointed boy from each den is called forward to tell what his den has done, or will do, this month as a good turn. Leave all the candles burning throughout the meeting.

Christmas Opening

Equipment: Yule log with 3 candles, 4th candle to be used as a lighter

Cubmaster: With all the festivities of this busy holiday season, the Cubs of Den _____ want to light our yule, which will burn through our meeting tonight, and offer to you their gifts for Christmas.

Cub #1: (lights 1st candle) May these be your gifts at Christmas...warm hearts, and shining faces, surrounding you to make your home the happiest of places.

Cub #2: (lights 2nd candle) May these be your gifts at Christmas...deep peace and lasting love that you will share together with the ones you're fondest of.

Cub #3: (lights 3rd candle) May these be your gifts at Christmas...the promise of a year where everything goes will with you and those you hold most dear.

Cubmaster: Now that the Cub Scouts have offered you these gifts at Christmas, I wish to read the "Beatitudes for Children." Please listen to them with an awareness that the children of today are our hope for tomorrow.

Blessed is the child...

Who has someone who believes in him and has high hopes for him.

Who has someone to whom he can carry his problems unafraid.

Whose home is a haven of happiness.

To whom life is a book of knowledge and who is privileged to turn the pages one by one.

Who is allowed to pursue his curiosity into every worthwhile field of information.

Who has someone who understands that childhood's griefs are real and bitter and call for understanding sympathy.

Who is led gently by the hand along the pathway of life by someone who is guide, companion, and inspiration.

Who has about him those who believe in his divinity and not his depravity.

Whose love of the truth, the beautiful, and the good has been nourished through the years.

Whose innate imagination has been turned into channels of creative effort.

Whose efforts to achieve have found encouragement and kindly commendation.

Blessed is the home or community or nation that sees in a child the hope of the future, and dedicates itself to the realization of that hope.

December Lights Opening or Closing

This is the season of lights. It is a time when the days are shorter and the nights are long. But, somehow, things seem brighter. Houses and buildings are bright with holiday lights. Thousands of homes display single candles to light the way for the Christ Child. Thousands of others burn candles to commemorate the miracle of the oil of Hanukkah. Even the stars in the winter sky seem brighter.

The most brilliant glow comes from the spirit of goodwill that you live all year round in the Cub Scout Promise and the Law of the Pack.

Let us all stand and repeat them together.

A Closing Thought

Most of us are happiest when we are doing something for others. Think for a moment of a time when you were helpful to someone. Chances are, it made you feel pretty good. Of course, we feel best when we do something for others without being found out. When we help others regularly, it soon becomes a habit, and gets to be a natural practice. Once a Cub Scout establishes this habit, he learns the real meaning of the Good Turn.

Holiday Advancement Ceremony

Equipment: Undecorated wreath or tree (real or cardboard cutout). A string of unlit lights is already installed, or a paper chain/string of popcorn. Awards attached to decorations (either store-bought ornaments or cut-out designs).

The Cubmaster talks about the tradition of various holiday decorations, including the wreath/tree that will be a part of this ceremony. As the boys names are called, they'll come up to receive their recognition, and participate in the pack holiday celebration by placing a decoration on the wreath/tree. (If there aren't many awards to be given, thus few decorations, you may wish to acknowledge the contribution of the pack/den leaders, and call them up to add decorations to the tree/wreath.)

Cubmaster: And there you have our beautiful Christmas wreath/tree. There are other Cub Scouts in our pack who didn't have an opportunity to add a decoration tonight. Now we're going to turn on the lights (or bring attention to the paper/popcorn chain), representing all the members of our pack families.

You can see how each decoration and light makes a difference in the appearance of our tree/wreath. In the same way, each member of our pack, boys and adults, makes a difference in our success. Thanks to all of you!

Santa's Green Suit

SANTA – Ho, ho, ho!
ELVES – Giggle, giggle

MRS. SANTA – My stars!
GREEN SUIT - Groannnn

SANTA was hurrying to get the toys loaded for the long trip to the department store in the morning. As he stepped into his sleigh, he heard a loud rip. SANTA reached back and felt a tear right across the seat of his pants.

SANTA hurried inside to where MRS. SANTA was sewing. "I've ripped my pants," SANTA said. "I've told you a hundred times," said MRS. SANTA, "your suite is worn out. You need a new one." "Why don't you just put a patch on this one?" asked SANTA. "A patch may not hold your pants together. I'll make you a new suit," replied MRS. SANTA.

SANTA nodded his head agreeably and sat down to read his Christmas letters. "Listen to this," he chuckled. "Mrs. O'Brien says that green is a Christmas color as much as red, and asks why I don't wear a GREEN SUIT." "Nonsense," laughed MRS. SANTA, "What an outlandish idea!" "Well, it may not be such a bad idea," said SANTA. "Green could give Christmas a new spirit. Why don't you make my new suite green?" "Nobody wants Christmas changed," said MRS. SANTA. "Call in your ELVES and see what they think of the idea."

SANTA went to the door and called in all the ELVES. "Mrs. O'Brien wants me to wear a GREEN SUIT," SANTA announced. The ELVES looked at each other in amazement. They were too stunned to speak. So SANTA decided for himself. "Make the suit green," he said.

When SANTA awoke early the next morning, he leaped out of bed and found the GREEN SUIT hung neatly on a chair beside the bed. But after he dressed and went outside, his reindeer shied away from him and reared up as he approached. "They don't recognize you, SANTA," said one of the ELVES, "I'll put blinders on them." SANTA then climbed into his sleigh and shouted, "Away, away," and flew through the air toward the department store, with his sleigh full of toys.

"Merry Christmas," he shouted to the people on the street. The people were very quiet and stared at him. "Merry Christmas," he said to the children in the store. The children were very quiet and stared at him, too. The store manager said, "I don't know who you are, but please leave. We're expecting SANTA." No one would believe he was really SANTA in the GREEN SUIT.

Then he decided to go visit Mrs. O'Brien. "She'll like my GREEN SUIT," said SANTA. When Mrs. O'Brien opened the door, her face beamed with delight and she said to her husband, "Faith and begorrah, Michael. If it isn't the good Saint Patrick himself come to pay us a Christmas visit."

That convinced SANTA that MRS. SANTA was right. Everybody loves Christmas just the way it is. He never wore his GREEN SUIT again.

Reindeer Game

This is a short skit for two. One Announcer, and a Contestant (who sits in the audience).

Announcer: (Bursting with enthusiasm) Good evening, ladies and gentlemen, and welcome to our program. Tonight, some lucky member of our audience will win \$10,000—if he correctly answers our skill testing questions!

(Scans the audience, and points to pre-selected Contestant)

You, sir, would you like a chance to at this great prize?

Contestant: Oh, yes sir! (leaves the audience and joins the announcer on stage)

Announcer: Tonight, our question is: “Name two of Santa’s reindeer!” You have 10 seconds to think about it. No help from the audience, please. (Buzzer sounds) Time’s up! Now, give me on f the two reindeer names.

Contestant: Would one be Rudolph?

Announcer: (Jumping for joy) Yes! That’s absolutely correct! You are halfway to \$10,000. Now, can you give me one more name?

Contestant: (Thinks and scratches his head) Well, how about Olive?

Announcer: (Groans) Olive! Who ever heard of a reindeer named Olive?

Contestant: Well, we sing about her in the song with Rudolph. You know—I’m sure you’ve heard it. It goes like this: “Olive, the other reindeer.”

APPLAUSE

Rudolph Applause: Put thumbs to head with fingers up, forming antlers. Wrinkle nose while saying, "Blink, blink, blink!"

Sleigh Applause: Bob up and down in chair like riding in a sleigh and say, "Ting-a-ling" three times.

Santa Cheer: Place hands on stomach and say, "HO! HO! HO!"

RUN-ONS

What do bears and wolves get when they walk along the beach?
Sandy claws.

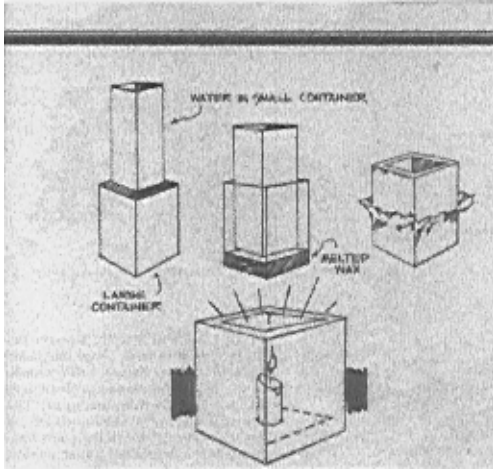
Down in the Basement*Tune: Up on the Housetop*

Down in the basement Cub Scouts pause,
They are helping Santa Claus.
Toys and games and goodies, too,
Make children happy, yes they do.
Ho, ho, ho, who would go?
Ho, ho, ho, who would go
Out helping Santa, click, click, click,
Do a goodwill project quick, quick, quick.

We are Cub Scouts, we're happy boys,
At Christmas time, we share our joys.
We'll give some help to Mom and Dad,
And try to help make everyone glad.
Ho, ho, ho, who wouldn't know?
Ho, ho, ho, we know it's so,
Now that we're Cub Scouts, we will be
Happy and loyal and trustworthy.

Santa's Coming*Tune: "Are You Sleeping?"*

Santa's coming, Santa's coming,
Hear the bells, hear the bells.
Share your joy with others
Share your joy with others
Give goodwill, give goodwill.



Everlasting Candle

This makes a large candle-like shell through which the light from a small candle glows.

Cut a half-gallon milk carton in half. Discard the top half. Using a double boiler, melt paraffin and bits of wax crayons for color. Pour into carton to a depth of about an inch, and let harden.

Fill a quart milk carton with water, sand or pebbles, and center it inside the large container, then fill the space between the cartons with more melted paraffin. Let it harden overnight.

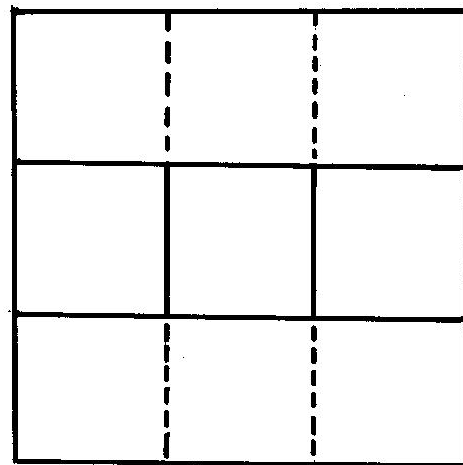
Remove the smaller carton (fill it with hot water if it sticks). Peel off the larger carton. Decorate the outside with cutouts from holiday napkins or colored tissue paper, or by pressing in sequins, beads or glitter.

Holiday Treat Holders

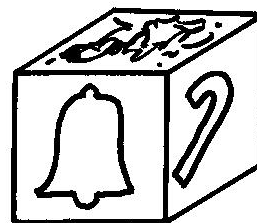
Fold a square piece of paper in thirds one direction—then the other. This will result in 9 squares. From two of the sides, cut 1/3 of the way in (until you reach the cross-ways fold) along both of the fold lines.

Fold in the sides and glue or staple to create a square basket. Using a cookie cutter for a pattern, cut out holiday shapes to attach to the sides for decoration. You may wish to add a paper handle to make a basket.

Fill with candy and nuts. Finished products can be give to a senior center or soup kitchen.



Cut along all dotted lines.



Holiday Charades

Divide the den into teams of two. Give each team a slip of paper with an idea related to Christmas or Hanukkah (e.g., decorating the tree, hanging stockings, singing carols, lighting the menorah, rededication of the Temple). In turn, each team silently acts out its charade, while the others try to guess what it is.

Icicle Hunt

You'll need: strings of varying lengths = "icicles"

Before the meeting, hide the icicles in a designated area. On signal, all players start to search for them. After a specified time, end the game. The winner is the person whose string of icicles forms the longest line when laid end to end, or the one with the most.

Christmas with the Right Family

You'll need a gift (or gifts, depending on the size of your group).

Read the story below slowly enough for the gift to be passed. Every time the word "RIGHT" is read, the gift is passed to the person on the right. Every time the word "LEFT" is read, the gift is passed to the person on the left. The person holding the gift when the story ends keeps the gift.

Christmas was almost here, and Mother RIGHT was finishing the Christmas baking. Father RIGHT, Sue RIGHT, and Billy RIGHT returned from their last minute Christmas errands. "There's not much LEFT to be done," said Father RIGHT, as he came into the kitchen. "Did you leave the basket of food at the church?" asked Mother RIGHT. "I LEFT it RIGHT where you told me to," said Father RIGHT. "I'm glad my shopping is done," said Billy RIGHT, "I don't have any money LEFT." The hall telephone rang, and Susan RIGHT LEFT to answer it. She rushed back and told the family, "Aunt Tillie RIGHT LEFT a package for us RIGHT on Grandma RIGHT's porch. I'll go over there RIGHT now and get it," she said, as she LEFT in a rush. Father RIGHT LEFT the kitchen and brought in the Christmas tree. By the time Susan RIGHT returned, Mother RIGHT, Father RIGHT and Billy RIGHT had begun to trim this year's RIGHT family Christmas tree. The entire RIGHT family sang carols as they finished the decorating. Then, they LEFT all the presents arranged under the tree and went RIGHT up to bed, hoping they had LEFT all the gifts in their RIGHT places and had selected the RIGHT gift for each member of the RIGHT family. Now I hope you have the RIGHT present for yourself, because that's all that's LEFT of our story, except to wish you a Merry Christmas. Isn't that RIGHT?

Santa/Snowman Apples

Apples

Marshmallows

Gumdrops (Homemade, maybe? See below.)

Round toothpicks

Santa/Snowman Heads attached to toothpicks (available at craft/baking stores)

Place the head in the center of the apple. Use toothpicks to attach marshmallows and gumdrops to apple for arms, legs and buttons.

Yummy Gumdrops

1 1/3 cups applesauce

2 envelopes unflavored gelatin

1 6-oz package fruit flavored gelatin

2 cups sugar

1 teaspoon bottled lemon juice

Sugar

1. Combine the applesauce, unflavored gelatin, flavored gelatin, sugar and lemon juice in a saucepan.
2. Bring to a boil and boil for one minute, stirring frequently.
3. Fill the loaf pan up with cold water and then pour out the water. Immediately pour the gelatin mixture into the wet pan.
4. Allow the loaf pan to cool for 10 minutes, then place in the refrigerator for about 3 hours, or until the gelatin is firm
5. Cut the candy into squares.
6. Remove the squares and place them on an ungreased cookie sheet.
7. Allow to dry for at least 8 hours.
8. After the candy has dried, pour some sugar into a bowl and roll the candy pieces in the sugar.

Tips: When cutting the candy, dip the knife into warm water to prevent the candy from sticking. Try making different flavors, then place them in a tin (layers separated by waxed paper, and give the candy as a gift).