

December 2008 Monthly Theme: "Holiday Lights"

The Star of Bethlehem, the Miracle of the Lamp, the Morning Star that enlightened Buddha, the bonfires of Yule: many of our holiday traditions this month involve lights. Share your holiday traditions with your pack and den: lights on a Christmas tree, candles on a Menorah for Chanukah, or on a Kinara for Kwanzaa. Boys can be stars this month by brightening someone's holiday season with a gift of compassion. As a pack or den, visit a nursing home, preschool, or children's ward and sing holiday favorites. End your outing by sharing cookies that the boys decorated. Help those less fortunate with a service project or toy drive. How about a holiday campfire at your pack meeting? This is great month to work on the Language and Culture belt loop and pin or the Heritages belt loop and pin.

Webelos Activity Badges: First year, Complete Craftsman; Second year, Start Scientist

Pack and Den Activities

Pack Mitten Tree

While we haven't done this as a Pack, I've seen it done at local businesses and churches. Each child/family is asked to bring in a pair of mittens, a scarf, and/or a hat to hang on the tree in the meeting area. After the meeting, the donations are packaged and given to one of the local clothing banks or other clothing distribution facilities.

Popcorn Wreath

Materials: Cardboard base (a pizza box is perfect or a cake round), lots of popped corn, glue, yarn, ribbon, scissors

Directions: Cut the center of the cardboard out to create the wreath base. Punch a hole near the edge and tie a loop of yarn through it to be used for hanging later. Pour glue out on a recycled meat tray. Put the popped corn into a bowl, and one at a time dip in the glue and stick onto the wreath base. Cover the base completely with the popcorn. Decorate with tiny yarn or ribbon bows, glued on here and there.

Gumdrop Tree

Materials: Styrofoam cone, toothpicks, candy gumdrops

Directions: Place gumdrops on table. Stick a toothpick into each gumdrop. Press toothpicks into Styrofoam cone. Cover the cone completely. Tie ornaments are edible.

Stamped Christmas Wrapping Paper

Materials: Pre-cut shaped sponges, or sponges you cut into shapes, tempera paint paper towels, construction paper or white butcher paper, paint tray

Directions: Pour tempera paint over several layers of paper towels on tray to form an inkpad. Dip sponges into paint. Tamp onto paper. When dry, use as gift-wrap.

Potted Christmas Tree

Materials: Tree branch, potting dish, Styrofoam, fabric, scissors

Directions: Find a nicely shaped tree branch on the ground. (Do not cut a live branch). Place it in a pot. Secure it in a piece of Styrofoam or bed of small rocks. Cut a piece of fabric large enough to cover the top of the pot. Cut a hole in the center and slash to the outer edge. Use it as a tree skirt. As the Christmas season progresses, decorate with ornaments you have made.

Christmas Bells

Materials: Paper cups, tin foil, ribbon, jingle bells

Directions: Cover cups with foil. Punch a hole in the bottom of each and string a ribbon through the hole, securing with a knot. Tie a jingle bell (or two) at the other end of the ribbon. Hang from Christmas tree.

Holiday Smells From Far Away

Materials: Stamps, construction paper, medium grade sandpaper, holiday cookie cutter, pencil, scissors, ground cinnamon, glue, markers, envelope

Directions: Fold a piece of construction paper in half to form a card. Trace cookie cutter onto sandpaper and cut out shape. Sprinkle cinnamon on the sandpaper, and rub in with your finger. Shake off the excess spice. Glue the cookie shapes on the front of the card. Write your holiday message inside the card. Mail to someone special.

Caps On! Caps Off! Clipper!

Material: Wood measuring stick, 5 wooden spring clothes pins, wood glue (greater strength), Glue gun (impatient boys), paints and brushes

1. Glue one clothespin at each of the 6", 12", 18", 24", and 30" marks. Use either wood glue or hot glue depending on your needs. Body of pins should line up on the centerline of the stick. Jaws should line up with numbers.
2. Paint a funny face on each pin.
3. Clip a baseball cap at each pin and hang on wall.

Less than \$1.00 apiece. Frequently local merchants will donate the measuring sticks, so cost drops to 15 cents each.

Tips

Very popular with boys because it is both practical (holds five baseball caps) and fanciful (chomping monster faces). These can be very quick to make if no decorating is done. Some boys will really get into painting and decorating the faces so allow time for it. Be sure the pins are glued down so that jaws are at opposite end of stick from the hanging hole or the chomping monsters will be hidden by the caps when the stick is hung on a wall. These make great craft sale items.

Pinecone Ornaments

Materials: Pinecones, red, green, or white spray paint gold or silver paint, string or thread, paint brush

Directions: Put the pinecones on a sheet of newspaper. Spray the cones on one side. Allow them to dry, then spray the other side. When dry, paint the tips in gold or silver and let dry. If cones are "soft", sew a foot-long heavy thread through the bottom of each cone. If they are wooden-like, tie a ribbon through the bottom spurs of each cone. Now, you have ornaments for packages, a wreath, a Christmas tree, or to hang on a door with a big bow.

Christmas Tree Ornaments

Ingredients: 4 cups flour, 1 cup salt, 1 1/2 cups water, paper clips, tempera paints, thread, clear plastic spray

Directions: Mix the flour, salt and water to make flour clay. Rub your hands with flour and knead the mixture for at least five minutes, until thickened. Mold and shape the clay into Christmas wreaths, trees, stars, or whatever you like. For adding details, try using a toothpick to "etch" the clay. Finished pieces should be no thicker than 1/2 inch and no bigger than 3 inches. For a hanging hook, stick one end of a paper clip into the shape. Cover a cookie sheet with foil, and place your clay shapes on it. Bake in an oven at 350 degrees for about 12 to 20 minutes. When done, your clay will be light brown in color. When tapped with a fork, it will make a solid ringing sound. Decorate your clay ornaments with paints. When paint is dry, spray the ornaments with clear plastic coating. Tie a thread through each paper clip and hang them on your tree.

Gift Tags

Materials: Used greeting cards, scissors, thread or thin string, and a hole punch

Directions: Select pictures, designs or greetings that would make attractive gift tags (make sure there is no writing on the back). Cut the tags into different shapes and sizes or make small folders. Punch a hole in the corner of each tag. Cut a 5" piece of string, loop it through the hole and knot.

Read a story or poem about snow

There is something magical about snow, the way it blankets fields, and rests on tree branches; the way it softens a landscape, and quiets a city.

The Big Snow

Berta and Elmer Hader (story)

First Snow

Marie Louise Allen (poem)

It Fell in the City

Eve Merriam (poem)

Snow

Karla Kuskin (poem)

The Snowy Day

Ezra Jack Keats (story)

Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening

Robert Frost (poem)

When All the World Is Full of Snow

N.M. Bodecker (poem)

Candy Menorah

Materials: Styrofoam pieces for base, 9 peppermint sticks, 9 candy kisses

Cut a 1" square of foam and glue to center of foam base. Push four peppermint sticks into the foam to one side of the center. Push four peppermint sticks into the other side. Push the central peppermint stick into the center.

On the first day of Hanukkah, "light" the Shamash and the first "candle" on the right. To light the candles, dab some frosting onto the top of the candy stick and attach a candy kiss. Candles are lit from right to left. On the eighth day, the edible parts of the menorah may be eaten in celebration of the holiday.

Coffee Can Stilts

You need two large coffee cans. Clean and dry them. Get your Den Leader to help you make two holes in the can, one on one side and then one on the other. Then you do the same with the second can.

Run the end of a rope into one hole and then the other end through the other hole on one of the cans. Get help to measure how long the rope should be according to how tall you are while your standing on the can. After you have the length you need tie the two loose ends together inside the can. Cut off any excess rope. Repeat for other can. Now you have stilts to walk around on. Lots of fun.

Milk Jug Luminary

Materials

Sand, empty plastic gallon milk containers, tea lights, scissors, fireplace matches

1. Clean milk gallons and remove all labels.
2. On the side nearest the handle, cut a slit one inch tall and three inches long about one inch up from the bottom.
3. Pour about one inch of sand into the container. Shake to distribute sand evenly.
4. Push tea light into the middle of the sand. Use fireplace matches to light.

Cost for 8= \$1.00 or less.

Tips

These are very unusual luminary. They don't blow over or get snuffed out if it's wet and windy. They give a lovely white light. At a cost of 10 cents each, they are a very inexpensive way to decorate the outdoors at Christmas and other times of the year. Care must be taken to place the tea light near the center of the container but not directly under the spout.

Magic Reindeer Food

Santa's reindeer will be hungry when they get to your house. While Santa's inside eating the cookie and milk you left him, the reindeer will be waiting outside. How about leaving them some reindeer food?

Uncooked oatmeal, glitter, ziplock bags, ribbon

In a Ziplock bag, put a little bit of uncooked oats and glitter. Shake to mix.

Place this poem inside the bag and hand out.

On Christmas Eve Night
Before the little ones yawn
Sprinkle "Magic Reindeer Food"
On your front lawn
The smell of the oats
And the sparkles so bright
Will surely help Rudolph
With his Christmas Eve flight.

If you live in an area where you have lots of animals like pets or wild animals they might get to the reindeer food, before the reindeer and they might eat it. Glitter might hurt real animal stomachs and Santa's reindeer will still enjoy the feast without glitter. (or you could substitute a small amount of decorative sugar sprinkles)

Hanukkah Ideas

Background

The holiday dates back 2200 years. Jews lived in Palestine, then occupied by the Syrians. Antiochus was the king of Syria. He wanted the Jews to accept the religion of the Greeks. Some did and some did not. Those that did not formed a band of loyal Jews. They were named the Maccabees. Mattahhis was their father, and Judah Maccabee was their leader. After three years, the band captured Jerusalem, cleaned and repaired the Holy Temple.

They found a small cruse of oil to light the eternal light. However, there was only enough for one day and they sent for more oil. The small amount of oil lasted for eight days instead of one, until more oil was secured. This was considered the miracle, although the victory of the small band over the Syrian Army was also considered a miracle.

Hanukkah is celebrated the 25th day of Kislev in the Hebrew calendar. It falls somewhere between Thanksgiving and New Years each year.

In homes, people decorate with paper products. They light candles each day. They start with one candle and the "shammus" which lights the other candles, and add one candle each night. They sing songs, eat potato pancakes and Hanukkah cookies. Also they exchange Hanukkah gifts and Hanukkah "gelt" (small amounts of money). They play games with the "dreidle" or top.

Crafts

Menorah odd piece of wood (oblong); bottle caps, wooden spools, etc., paint, glue. Must have 9 holders, one either larger elevated as the "Shammas".

Stained Glass Windows waxed paper, shapes of tissue paper (can also be done with Christmas colors and symbols). Iron Hanukkah shapes between two pieces of wax paper.

Holiday cards (may also be done with Christmas symbols) dip holiday cookie cutters in paint and print on colored paper (can also use potato or vegetable print)

Crafts On Theme Table

Many Families have traditions surrounding ornaments and decorations for the holidays. Have the boys in your den or pack share their traditions with each other. Here are some ideas that you can share with them.

Popcorn Chain

Decorate the tree with a chain made by pushing a needle and thread through pieces of popcorn. Easier still thread string or yarn through items with a hole already in it such as Cheerios, Fruit Loops. or Apple Jacks. Noodles of various types can be dyed with food coloring, painted or used as is to make an interesting chain.

Countdown Chain

Boys love counting down the days left to Christmas. A simple count down chain can be made by gluing or taping strips of paper though each other to make a chain. Use a strip of paper for each day needed for the count down. The chain can be attached to a paper that is decorated to represent the holiday.

Egg Cup Santa

Here is a fat, jolly Santa made from egg cartons, cotton, and paint. Cut out four of the eggcup sections below the portion of carton which joins one cup to another so that you have only the round bottom half. Color three of the cups red on the outside with poster paint or crayon and one white. Glue two of the red sections together where they have been cut. Glue the third red section on top of the white one, again joining at the cut part. Twist some cotton into a thick cord and glue this around the seams you have made on the cups for the

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trim on Santa's hat bottom jacket trim. Make a tassel for his hat, hair and whiskers out of cotton. With paint or crayon color his eyes, nose, mouth and buttons for his coat. Glue the two halves together.

Use your old Christmas tree or your backyard shrubs as a bird feeder. Decorate them by making Orange Slice Ornaments and Cookie Cutter Bird treats. This not only makes a festive feeder, but also provides shelter for small birds like sparrows and juncos.

This activity can be a 1 week or 2 week Den Meeting. This would depend on the size of the den.

Orange Slice Ornaments

Materials: Oranges, paring knife, cutting boards, yarn, raffia or ribbon, and pencils.

Give each Cub Scout his own orange and experiment slicing his orange, along with knife safety instructions. When it's time to deck the tree or shrub, tie each slice to a branch.

Cookie Cutter Bird Treats

Materials: Mixing bowls, measuring cups, measuring spoons, mixers-electric or manual, rolling pin, drinking straws, and ribbon.

1 Cup unsalted butter, softened 3 eggs, beaten, 3 1/2 cups all-purpose flour, sifted 1 teaspoon baking soda, 1 1/2 teaspoons cream of tartar 1/2 teaspoon salt, mixed birdseed

Cream the butter, then beat in the eggs. Sift together the flour, baking soda, cream of tartar, and salt. Gradually add the dry ingredients to the butter and egg mixture. When well mixed, cover and chill. Flour surface of cabinet top and roll out the dough to about a 1/4 in thickness. Cut out shapes with the cookie cutters; at the top of each cookie, make a hole with a drinking straw. Press in a coating of the birdseed. Preheat oven to 350 and bake for about 12 minutes. When cookies are cool, insert a length of ribbon through each and tie.

Since the cookie dough will need to chill, make dough first and chill. Then try the Orange Slice Ornaments while waiting for the dough.

GAMES

Candy Bar Game

As our families run here and there, little time is spent together. This game gives your family an opportunity to gather together and have FUN!

Objective: Each person tries to get as many candy bars as they can.

Materials: 2 Candy bars for each player or couple

1 brown lunch sack for each player or couple

Timer

Wood die

Bowl

Good Attitude

Timer: Set timer in another room, so no one can watch to see how much time is left. A stop timer is perfect. Most families play for about a half-hour. After playing a few times, you will know how much time needs to be adjusted. It's fun to vary the time from each game to keep them off guard.

Preparation: If using this game for a party, assign each person to bring two candy bars. Take the candy when they arrive. One person (mother, father, or party leader) places two candy bars in a brown sack. Fold down the top of each sack the same. If there are extra bars, place them in a bowl. Place a mark, (x) on the bottom of one of the bags.

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Starting the game:

1. Everyone gather in a circle.
2. Bowl is placed inside the circle.
3. Each person or couple picks a sack out of the center.
4. Explain that each sack contains two candy bars and no one is to look until directed to do so.
5. Each person looks into their own sack but does not tell what kind of bars they have.
6. Everyone closes their bag. Players may look inside any sack that is their own during the game.
7. Who goes first? The player with the mark on the bottom of their sack. That player rolls first then follows to the left.

Roll Die: A player has to follow what has been rolled.

1. Take the Bowl: If rolled the player takes all the bars.
2. Trade sacks: Player picks another player to trade sacks with. Remember: You want the most candy
3. Lose a turn: Lose next turn.
4. Add Bar to Bowl: The player takes a bar from his sack and adds to the bowl. Don't let people know your sack is empty. This might help out when trading. If you receive an empty sack don't say anything. Just hope you can pass is off
5. Double take: A player who rolls this takes one bar from the players on his left and right. If the player is out of bars, you're out of luck.
6. Guess a Bar: Players need to watch bars and sacks as they are exchanged
7. When rolled a player says a person name and tries to guess the candy bar in their sack. The players only need to answer with a yes or no. If the player asked has the bar, he must give it to the roller.

Ending the Game: When the timer goes off everyone keeps the sack that they end up with. If a player has rolled the die when the timer goes off, that player may complete his turn. At this time any bars left in the bowl must be rolled for.

Christmas Swipe

A large sack containing candies and trinkets of various sorts is hung in the center of the room. Players from the Red Caps and the Green Caps take turns in being blindfolded, turned about, and given an opportunity to bring the sack down with a swipe of the wand. If a Red Cap brings down the sack, then his teammates are privileged to scramble for the contents. If it is brought down by a Green Cap, only the Greens have the privilege. Players are not allowed to coach a contestant.

What's Wrong with Christmas

This is a good quiet game for use at den meetings. On a table or tray place a number of Christmas type objects, such as a candy canes, bell, sprig of holly, etc. Scatter through these a number of objects which are not a part of Christmas, such as Halloween mask, green shamrock, red heart, hard-boiled egg, etc. Cover all objects until time to play the game; then remove the cover and give Cub Scouts two minutes to look at all the objects. Recover all objects, and give each boy a pencil and paper. Ask them to write down all non-Christmas items. Cub Scout with longest list wins.

Snowball Relay

Players divide into two teams and line up behind starting line.

Give each team a "snowball", either Styrofoam or cotton and a piece of cardboard. On signal, first player on each team tries to move ball across floor and back by fanning it with cardboard. Player may not touch snowball with hands or cardboard. First team to finish is winner.

Clap a Song

The first player claps the rhythm of a well-known Christmas carol or other holiday tune. The others try to guess what the song is. When a player guesses correctly, he becomes the new clapper.

Balloon Round Up

Supplies: You will need a large barrel or box and one balloon for each Cub Scout. Each den has balloons of a different color from every other den. The barrel must be too small to hold all the balloons.

Place the barrel in the center of the playing area and line up equal numbers of Cub Scout by dens on opposite sides of the room. On signal, the boys put one hand behind their backs and with the other hand, try to tap the balloons in the air and into the barrel. When the barrel is full, stop the game and count the balloons in the barrel by color. The winning den is the one that got the most balloons into the barrel.

Santa's Bag

Number 10 brown paper bags from 1 to 10. Put a familiar item in each bag (preferably related to Christmas), fold and staple the bag shut. Each boy is given a pencil and paper with 1 through 10 listed. Then they try to guess what is in each bag by touching and shaking the bag. They write their guess on the paper by number. The Cub with the most correct answers wins.

Hide the Chocolate Gelt

When the boys are out of the room or busy with an activity, hide the chocolate gelt around the room. Just before it's time to go home, tell the boys that there is a treat hidden somewhere around the room for each of them. Have the boys hunt for their treat.

Kwanzaa Celebration Ideas

Make an Oware Game How to make an Oware board:

1. Remove the lid off an egg carton and paste it underneath the egg portion of the carton.
2. Cut two separate egg sections and staple one on each end of the carton.
3. Paint the "game board" with acrylic paints.
4. After the paint has dried you can decorate with African Figure heads, beads, or use the Kwanzaa symbols. You can easily staple decorations at the end of the board. The older artist may want to paint the images inside the egg cups.

How to play "Oware" Items needed to play:-48 small smooth stones or beans -Egg carton or a 12 cup muffin tin will also work.-Two players (Player A and Player B)Objective: To be the player with the most stones in your bank at the end of the game. To Play:1. Place four beans in the bottom of each of the 12 cups.2. Play: Player A picks up all the stones from any cup. Starting with the next cup to the right, drops one stone at a time into each successive cup. After he/she drops the last stone in a cup, Player A picks up all the stones in THAT cup and continues to drop one in each consecutive cup. Player A's turn ends when he/she puts the last seed in an empty cup. (Player A has the longest turn first)Player B then chooses any cup of stones and begins a turn exactly like Player A's. A player scores when he/she drops the last stone in a cup with THREE others (making FOUR stones in a cup). The player then puts all four stones in his/her "bank". If the player puts a stone in a cup with three others and it is not the last stone, the other player puts the four stones in his/her bank. The player who gets the next to the last four stones gets the remaining stones on the board. The player who has accumulated the most stones in his/her bank, WINS!

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Trim the Tree

Line up dens for relay. Attach large sheets of paper to the opposite wall and give each boy a different colored crayon. On signal, the first boy runs to his paper and outlines a Christmas tree. Then the next boy runs up and draws a stand. The others draw ornaments or lights. The first team to trim its tree wins.

Hanukkah Peanut Hunt

Buy package of peanuts. Right K on 4, H on 4, N on 4, U on 4, and A on 4. Hide all the peanuts, lettered and unlettered, for five minutes.

Scoring: 10 points for greatest number

5 points for each lettered peanut

20 points for a Cub finding enough to write HANUKKAH

Pass the Dreidel

Cub Scouts sit in circle, start music. Pass the top around the circle. When the music stops, the Cub Scout holding the dreidel drops out. Last Cub Scout is the winner.

Snowball Relay

Players divide into two teams and line up behind starting line. Give each team a "snowball," either Styrofoam or cotton, and piece of cardboard. On signal, first player on each team tries to move ball across floor and back by fanning it with cardboard. Player may not touch the snowball with hands or cardboard. First team to finish is winner.

The Pack Meeting

Gathering Activities

Christmas Sayings and Songs Puzzle

Translate each statement into modern English. Each is a common Christmas saying or song.

1. Move thitherward the entire assembly of those who are loyal in their belief.
2. Listen, the celestial messengers produce harmonious sounds.
3. Nocturnal time span of unbroken quietness.
4. An emotion excited by the acquisition or expectation of good given to the terrestrial sphere.
5. Embellish the interior passageways.
6. Exalted heavenly beings to whom harkened.
7. Twelve o'clock on a clement night witnessed its arrival.
8. The Christmas preceding all others.
9. Small municipality in Judea southeast of Jerusalem.
10. Diminutive masculine master of skin covered percussionistic cylinders.
11. Omnipotent Supreme Being who elicits respite to ecstatic distinguished males.
12. Tranquility upon the terrestrial sphere.
13. Obese personification fabricated of compressed mounds of minute crystals.
14. Expectation of arrival to populated area by mythical, masculine perennial gift-giver.
15. Natal Celebration devoid of color, rather albino, as a hallucinatory phenomenon for me.
16. In awe of the nocturnal time span characterized by religiosity.
17. Geographic state of fantasy during the season of Mother Nature's dormancy.

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18. The first person nominative plural of a triumvirate of Far Eastern heads of state.
19. Tintinnabulation of vacillating pendulums in inverted, metallic, resonant cups.
20. In a distant location the existence of an improvised unit of newborn children's slumber furniture.
21. Proceed forth declaring upon a specific geological alpine formation.
22. Jovial Yuletide desired for the second person singular or plural by us.

Gathering Snowballs

As the families gather, present each with a nametag, on which you have left room to write a number. The set-up for this game is a table on which you have placed cotton balls (be sure to have quite a few). You also need either wooden or good sized plastic spoons all the same size. As players enter room have them see how many cotton balls they can gather in an allotted time (10 or 15 seconds) and write their total on their nametag. Remember, with the spoon only; no hands allowed. At the end of the game, award a small prize for the one who collected the most balls.

A Visit From Saint Nicholas

Provide sets of four cards. On each card, write one of the first four lines of the famous Christmas poem:
'Twas the night before Christmas when all through the house
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse.
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there.

Suspend the cards with a string around the necks of all the players. On signal, everyone is to scramble about seeking the other three lines of the poem. The first four to line up in the proper sequence are the winners.

How Many?

Fill a clear container filled with red, green and white jellybeans, holiday M&Ms, counting as you fill. Mix sizes and shapes for the most fun! Everyone makes a guess on a slip a paper (be sure they include their first and last name) as to how many treats are in the jar. The winner gets the container & candy.

Christmas Sayings and Songs Puzzle

Answers:

1. *Oh Come All Ye Faithful*
2. *Hark the Herald, Angels Sing*
3. *Silent Night*
4. *Joy To The World*
5. *Deck the Halls*
6. *Angels We Have Heard On High*
7. *It Came Upon A Midnight Clear*
8. *The First Noel*
9. *Oh Little Town of Bethlehem*
10. *Little Drummer Boy*
11. *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*
12. *Peace On Earth*
13. *Frosty The Snowman*
14. *Santa Claus Is Coming To Town*
15. *I'm Dreaming Of A White Christmas*

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16. *Oh Holy Night*
17. *Winter Wonderland*
18. *We Three Kings Of Orient Are*
19. *Jingle Bells*
20. *Away In The Manger*
21. *Go Tell It On The Mountain*
22. *We Wish You A Merry Christmas*

What Am I

Print out different cards with common Winter Wonderland items (such as sled, sleigh, snowman, gift, evergreen tree, etc.). As people arrive at the meeting place, tape cards to their backs and give them this instruction. "By asking only YES/NO questions, go around to other people and ask enough questions to determine what the label on the back of you says you are."

Opening Ceremonies

SPIRIT OF THE HOLIDAYS

READER: This is a special time of year for people all around the world. It is a time of Joy and Light, of Hope and Peace, and of the comforts of Home, Family, and Tradition. It is a time of Spirit in all things, and although there are many different types of Spirit and Spirits among us, tonight we are going to be visited by four of them.

SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS: "I am the Spirit of Christmas" (Lights Advent candles, using appropriate prayer(s) and a brief statement as to what the candles and the holiday represent.)

SPIRIT OF HANUKKAH: "I am the Spirit of Hanukkah" (Lights the Hanukkah candles using the appropriate prayer(s) and a brief statement as to what the candles and the holiday represent.)

SPIRIT OF KWANZAA: "I am the Spirit of Kwanzaa" (Lights the Kwanzaa candles and gives a brief statement as to what the candles and the holiday represent.)

SPIRIT OF SCOUTING: "I am the Spirit of Scouting, and here I light the twelve candles which the twelve points of the Scout Law, and three candles which represent the three points of the Scout Oath. I will also light one additional candle of the purest white, which represents not only the Spirit of Scouting, but also all the other Spirits of Goodness which exist throughout this old world of ours no matter what they may be called. Now, I call upon my Fellow Spirits, and all of you here in this room, to join with me in reciting the Cub Scout Promise.

ALL: (Cub Scout Promise)

READER: Thank you all. Please be seated.

ALL SPIRITS: "Happy Holidays!"

HOLIDAY SPIRIT

Personnel: 5 Cub Scouts and Cubmaster

Equipment: 5 Index cards with script written on each, US Flag and Pack Flag. Flags are already in the front and each Cub Scout enters from the side one at a time and reads his script.

1st CUB: December is a fun time of the year. It is a time for giving and sharing.

2nd CUB: As we gather for the last Pack meeting for the year, let us remember the good times.

3rd CUB: Let us end this year with new determination to keep the Cub Scout Spirit going.

4th CUB: As we begin our program tonight, let us keep in mind the true Holiday Spirit.

5th CUB: Remember, to give of yourself is more important than any gift you can buy.

CUBMASTER: Please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Candle Opening

Dim or turn off room lights except for an electric candle or flashlight. The paragraph is read by the Cubmaster or other adult.

This is the season of lights and stars, when days are short and nights are long with beautiful stars. Lord Baden Powell, the founder of Scouting, once said this to his scouts: "I often think when the sun goes down, the world is hidden by a big blanket from the light of heaven. But the stars are little holes pierced in that blanket by those who have done good deeds in this world. The stars are not all the same size, some are big, some are little. So some men have done great deeds, and some men have done small deeds, but they have all made their hole in the blanket by doing good before they went to heaven."

Let's remember when we look at the starry sky to make our own hole in the blanket, by doing good deeds and helping other people.

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4th Cub: As we begin our program tonight, let us keep in mind the true Holiday Spirit.

5th Cub: Remember, to give of yourself is more important than any gift you can buy.

Cubmaster: Please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Gift of Goodwill

Arrangement: A group of 8 Cub Scouts are gathered around Christmas gifts. Each boy is wrapping a gift, Den Chief enters.

Den Chief: Hey guys, let me see what each one of you is wrapping.

Cub 1: Gloves for my Dad.

Cub 2: An owl plaque for my Mom.

Cub 3: Oreo cookies for my little brother...maybe he will quit eating mine.

Cub 4: A doll for my sister.

Cub 5: Wind chimes for my Mom.

Cub 6: Ink pens for my big brother...maybe mine will quit disappearing.

Cub 7: A lamp for my Mom.

Cub 8: A lacy handkerchief for my grandma. She likes to wave them good-bye.

Den Chief: Hey you guys are really giving Goodwill (*laughs*).

All Cubs: We hope so. Aren't we supposed to do that year round?

Den Chief: Yes, but let me show you something that's quite unusual. (He takes a large piece of poster board and marking pen. He calls on each boy in order to name the gift he is wrapping, and he writes the first letter on the board...such as G for gloves. O for owl, etc. The result spells out Goodwill, which he holds up for the audience to see.)

Cub 1: Hey, that's all right! We're giving Goodwill separately together!

December 2008: "Holiday Lights"

Holiday Spirit

Personnel: 5 Cubs

Props: Log candle holder with 3 candles (12") multipurpose lighter

Cub 1: The theme for this month is "Holiday Lights" and we have been busy getting ready for the Holiday season. This month there are three major holidays celebrated by a different Religion or Culture, Hanukkah, Christmas and Kwanzaa.

Cub 2: Hanukkah is the Jewish Feast of Lights or Feast of Dedication. The Hebrew word Hanukkah means dedication. It is a celebration of God's deliverance of the Jews in 165 BC. The Hanukkah holiday begins on the eve of the 25th day of the Hebrew month of Kislev, and lasts eight days. It usually falls in the month of December and is celebrated by lighting of candles in a special Hanukkah menorah. I light the first candle for Hanukkah. (Lights the first candle)

Cub 3: Christmas is the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. Although the actual date of his birth is not known, early Church Fathers in the 4th century fixed the day as December 25, which conveniently coincided with other pagan holidays. The Christian priests obviously saw this choice as meritorious, using the old customary and popular feasting date but changing the rough pagan ways into a more civilized commemoration.. The word Christmas is taken from old English, Christes maesse or Christ's Mass. I light the second candle for Christmas. (lights the second candle.)

Cub 4: Kwanzaa is an African American holiday based on the traditional African festival of the first harvest crops. The word Kwanzaa comes from the phrase matunda ya kwanza, which means first fruits in Swahili. The holiday was developed in the United States in 1966 by M. Ron Karenga, a professor of Pan African studies and a black cultural leader. It begins on December 26th and lasts for seven days. The holiday centers around the seven principles of black culture that were developed by Karenga. These principles are: Unity; Self-determination; Collective work and responsibility; Cooperative economics; Purpose; Creativity; and Faith. I light the third candle for Kwanzaa. (Light the third candle)

Cub 5: With the spirit of the holiday candles now burning let us now begin our own celebration of our accomplishments this month.

Starry Night

(Dim or turn off room lights except for an electric candle or flashlight)

This is the season of lights and stars, when days are short and nights are long with beautiful stars.

Lord Baden-Powell, the founder of Scouting, once said this to his scouts, "I often think when the sun goes down, the world is hidden by a big blanket from the light of heaven. But the stars are little holes pierced in that blanket by those who have done good deeds in this world. The stars are not all the same size; some are big, and some are little. So some men have done great deeds, and some men have done small deeds, but they have all made their hole in the blanket by doing good before they went to heaven."

Let's remember when we look at the starry sky, to make our own hole in the blanket, by doing good deeds and helping other people.

Opening

Light Christmas tree. Cubmaster says: "Cub Scouts, isn't that a beautiful tree? It's bright and colorful, like the joyous seasons of Christmas and Hanukkah. And we all had a part in making it so beautiful. When all Cub Scouts work together and do their best, the result is always something fine like this tree. Let's remember that as we repeat the Cub Scout promise." (lead promise)

Stories and Audience Participations

The Great Christmas Gift Exchange

If you are having a gift exchange as part of your den or pack meeting, try this:

Everyone sits in a circle, holding the gift that they brought for the "exchange." Someone reads the story below, reading slowly enough for the gifts to be passed. Every time the word **RIGHT** is read, everyone passes the gift in their hand to the **RIGHT**. Every time the word **LEFT** is read, everyone passes the gift in their hand to the **LEFT**. The gift each person is holding when the story ends is the gift they keep.

Christmas (Hanukkah, Kwanzaa) was almost here, and Mother **RIGHT** was finishing the Christmas (Hanukkah/Kwanzaa) baking. Father **RIGHT**, Sue **RIGHT**, and Billy **RIGHT** returned from their last minute Christmas (Hanukkah/Kwanzaa) 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** front porch. I'll rush **RIGHT** over there 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 trimming the tree. The entire **RIGHT** family sang carols as they finished the decorating. Then they **LEFT** all the presents arranged under the tree and went to bed, hoping they had selected the **RIGHT** gifts for their 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 (or Happy Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, etc). Isn't that **RIGHT**?

Winter Songs

As each part comes along, the group stands and sings the first line of their song.

Winter: "Dashing Through The Snow"

Santa: "Jolly Old Saint Nicholas"

Sleigh: "Sleigh bells ring, are you listening"

Reindeer: "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer"

Once upon a tune, on a cold, dark **Winter** night, **Santa** sat in his workshop trying to decide what to do. His **Sleigh** had a broken runner, his elves were behind schedule on toy production, his **Reindeer** were suffering from lack of exercise and they were weak, and he, **Santa**, had a cold. With Christmas only days away, and the **Winter** weather cold, and snowy, **Santa** was so depressed. Rudolph, his most famous **Reindeer**, was unable to get his nose recharged, so that it barely glowed at all.

In a practice run, the **Sleigh** with the broken runner scarcely got off the ground. With the toys to make, the elves were stopping early to watch the Power Rangers. "Goodness me!" cried **SANTA**. "How will I ever get everything complete by Christmas Eve?"

Out of the cold **Winter** night, trudged a cold, hungry old man. "**Santa**," cried the cold, old, hungry man. "If you will give me a hot meal and a warm place to sleep, I'll fix your **Sleigh**, cure your **Reindeer**, fix Rudolph's nose and get the elves to work faster." **Santa** quickly agreed. After they had eaten and a nice night's sleep, the old man went to work.

First, he plugged the nose of Rudolph, the red-nosed **Reindeer** into the television set. This charged Rudolph's nose so that it glowed more brightly than ever, and it also blew a fuse on the TV set. This enabled the elves to work later, since they couldn't watch the Power Rangers. They quickly caught up to schedule. In the meantime, the old man used parts of the TV set chassis to fix the runner on the **Sleigh**. The **Reindeer**, not able to watch TV, began to run in the snow, and quickly regained their strength. **Santa** slept better and got rid of his cold.

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Because an old man knew the true value of the TV, everything was ready and on December 24th **Santa** hitched his **Reindeer** to the **Sleigh** and rode off into the **Winter** sky!

Old Fashioned Christmas

Old Fashioned Christmas: "Peace on Earth"

Toys: "Buzz, bang, whirr"

Gifts: "From the heart"

What is an **Old Fashioned Christmas**? a boy said to his parents one day.
They thought for a while before they would venture to say.
After talking it through and pondering a while,
They tried to portray to him the **Old Fashioned Christmas** style.
You see the holiday season we all know of today,
Often seems a far cry from what this season should portray.
People crowd in the stores buying meaningless **Gifts** and **Toys**,
In far too large a quantity for all the girls and boys.
In the **Old Fashioned Christmas**, things were different you see,
Far fewer **Gifts** than there seem to be.
So they were all given with love beyond measure,
Making the giving a wonderful treasure.
In the **Old Fashioned Christmas** the best **Gifts** of all,
Were those of goodwill or perhaps a token so small.
Toys were not given in excess by the score,
And many **Gifts** were home made, not bought from a store.
So if an **Old Fashioned Christmas** you wish now to see,
Remember the quantity of **Gifts** is immaterial as can be.
For an **Old Fashioned Christmas** let's all now start,
By remembering, my friend, it begins in the heart!
Through the giving of kindness and goodwill to all mankind,
An **Old Fashioned Christmas** we certainly can find.
The **Gifts** with a meaning in this season play a part,
With an **Old Fashioned Christmas** begun in the heart!

Advancement Ceremonies

WINTER WONDERLAND

There is something refreshing about the look of a field or woods after a good snowstorm. It's the look of a clean, unblemished land. I'm sure it was this picture that was on the person's mind when the term "Winter Wonderland" was first coined. Even when we think of the words ourselves, I'm sure there's more than one of us here that thinks of such a picture. Close your eyes for a moment and think about it... Winter Wonderland. Winter Wonderland. Winter Wonderland.

Keeping your eyes closed, I want you to concentrate on the image that comes to mind when I give you another phrase: Cub Scout Wonderland. Cub Scout Wonderland. Cub Scout Wonderland.

I don't know about the rest of you, but the image that comes to mind for me is one of fun with kids running around having a good time doing things. But I also see smiles on boys' faces for having done things really well. I see the look in their eyes that comes from having done something they never even thought they'd be able to do. It's the look of excitement and wonder. It's the look of goodness—a healthy, hardy look.

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Okay. Now let's open our eyes and see these same things in real life. Look around and what do you see? I'll tell you what I see. I see you, Cub Scouts, who are pleased with yourselves for having succeeded beyond measure. I see the parents who are proud of what their sons are doing and glad that they are part of it. I see the brothers and sisters who are having almost as much fun as their Cub Scout brothers are having. It is a sure sign of the success of the Scouting Program and the all of your hard work.

Tonight we will recognize our Tigers, Cubs, and Webelos who have worked so hard and achieved so much. *(Call boys and parents forward to receive their awards with their parents/partners.)*

Advancement Ceremonies

1. Awards could be gift wrapped and given out by Santa or one of his helpers.
2. Awards could be hung on a Christmas tree (either a small one from home or the decorated one where you hold your pack meetings.
3. Santa or helper could pull the awards out of a "toy" pack.
4. In one of the Scandinavian countries, the goodies are found in a wooden shoe-the awards could be put in a wooden shoe.
5. Awards could be attached to a candy piece of coal, reminding boys to be good if they want visit from Santa.

Holiday Lights Advancement Ceremony

Preparation: Have a Christmas tree with various colored lights. (This can be a cardboard tree with holes for the lights.) The bulbs should be unscrewed slightly so that they can be easily turned on at the proper time.

Cubmaster: As we look at our tree this evening, we see that it is dark, with only one light on. (Screw in top light.) This is the light which represents the Webelos Arrow of Light Award.

Let us see if there are boys here tonight who can help light the way to the top of the tree, to the highest rank in Cub Scouting.

The first step along the Cub Scout trail is the BOBCAT. (Turn on light at the bottom. If there are any Bobcats to be inducted do it here.)

Once a boy has achieved this honor, he is ready to climb. There are 12 achievements to completed for the rank of Wolf. Some of these require knowledge of the United States flag, of keeping strong, of safety and being useful to the family. The following boys have completed these requirements: (Call them forward--and any boys who have earned any arrow points.)

Thank you boys. We are now able to turn on the light representing the Wolf rank. (Turn on next light.)

As the boy grows older and stronger, he is able to climb higher. But just as it is a little more difficult to climb the upper branches of a tree, so the achievements are a little more difficult for the Bear rank. (Call forward any boys receiving Bear and Bear arrow points.)

These boys have helped us light our tree, but it is still not quite as it might be. Since they have received help from their parents and leaders, let us turn on a light for them, too. (Turn on another light.)

Now the boys have reached 4th grade or 5th grade and have more climbing to do. This last climb will bring them to the top of the tree and the coveted Arrow of Light. To reach there they must attain the Webelos Award. In order to reach the Webelos Award they must first earn activity badges. (Call forward Webelos who have earned their various activity badges.)

Thank you boys as you have learned throughout Cub Scouting you have helped to make the world brighter. (Turn on another light.) And now the boys who have earned their Webelos badge and have begun to learn what Scouting really is. (Call these boys forward) (Light the next light)

Now our tree is complete. As you have seen, it has taken boys plus parents and leaders to complete it. With the same effort you have shown before, keep working for the highest rank in Cub Scouting. Congratulations to you and your parents for the fine work you have done.

Winter Wonderland

There is something refreshing about the look of a field or woods after a good snowstorm. It's the look of a clean, unblemished land. I'm sure it was this picture that was on the person's mind when the term "Winter Wonderland" was first coined. Even when we think of the words ourselves, I'm sure there's more than one of us here that thinks of such a picture. Close your eyes for a moment and think about it... Winter Wonderland. Winter Wonderland. Winter Wonderland.

Keeping your eyes closed, I want you to concentrate on the image that comes to mind when I give you another phrase: Cub Scout Wonderland. Cub Scout Wonderland. Cub Scout Wonderland.

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Okay. Now let's open our eyes and see these same things in real life. Look around and what do you see? I'll tell you what I see. I see you, Cub Scouts, who are pleased with yourselves for having succeeded beyond measure. I see the parents who are proud of what their sons are doing and glad that they are part of it. I see the brothers and sisters who are having almost as much fun as their Cub Scout brothers are having. It is a sure sign of the success of the Scouting Program and the all of your hard work.

Tonight we will recognize our Tigers, Cubs, and Webelos who have worked so hard and achieved so much.

[For the Tigers and for each rank, call off the boys names, inviting them forward to receive their awards with their parents/partners.]

Songs

Rudy, The Red-Nosed Cub Scout

(Tune: Rudolph, The Red-Nosed Reindeer)

Rudy, the red-nosed Cub Scout,
Had a very runny nose;
And if you ever saw it,
You would probably say, "Oh, Gross!"

All of the other Cub Scouts
Used to laugh and say, "Oh, Ick";
Parents would not go near him
'Cause they thought they might get sick..

Then one winter's Pack Meeting,
Akela said, "Sign's Up!"
Rudy, with your nose so wet,
A box of Kleenex is what you'll get!

Then all the Cub Scouts cheered him,
As he blew and blew and blew;
Rudy, the red-nosed Cub Scout,
We will DO OUR BEST with you!

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Giving Time

(Tune: Jingle Bells-chorus)

Giving time, sharing time
Fun for everyone
Scouters know that Christmas is
The time for deeds well done
Giving time, sharing time
Let us all take part
Join with Cub Scouts all around
And give gifts from the heart

Christmas Spirit

(Tune: Silent Night)

God is night, stars are bright.
Leaders and Cubs stand in the light.
Singing carols to family and friends
Spreading joy that never ends.
Sweet their voices ringing
Christmas spirit to share.

Cub Scout Christmas

(Tune: White Christmas)

I'm dreaming of a Cub Scout Christmas
Where Cub Scout pants are given me
Then my eyes will water
Tho' they hadn't oughter
When a belt to hold them I will see
I'm dreaming of a shirt to hold badges
With a neckerchief and Cub Scout slide
Or a pocket knife, to last for life
Making my smile a mile wide.

Skits

The Gift Of Goodwill

Arrangement: A group of 8 Cub Scouts are gathered around, wrapping Christmas gifts. Each boy is wrapping a gift. Den Chief enters.

Den Chief: Hey guys, let me see what each one of you is wrapping.

1st Cub: Gloves for my Dad.

2nd Cub: An owl plaque for my mom.

3rd Cub: Oreo cookies for my little brother... maybe he'll quit eating mine

4th Cub: A doll for my sister.

5th Cub: Wind chimes for my mom.

6th Cub: Ink pens for my big brother... maybe mine will quit disappearing.

7th Cub: A lamp for my mom.

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8th Cub: A lacy handkerchief for my grandma. She likes to wave them goodbye.

Den Chief: Hey, you guys are really giving Goodwill. (laughs)

All Cubs: We hope so. Aren't we supposed to do that year round?

Den Chief: Yes, but let me show you something that's quite unusual. (He takes a large piece of poster board and a marking pen. He calls on each boy in order to name the gift he is wrapping, and he writes the first letter on the board. such as a G for gloves, etc. The result spells out Goodwill, which he holds up for the audience to see.)

1st Cub: Hey, that's all right! We're giving Goodwill separately together!

(Looks at Den Chief.) Figure that one out!

A Holiday Recipe

The scene opens with a Chief Cook and his helpers busily cooking something in a large kettle. They can be dressed as cooks in old white shirts and white construction paper hats, or as elves in tunics made from grocery bags and painted. Each should have a large spoon for "tasting". There should be a number of labeled containers visible. These may be empty cereal boxes or cans covered with paper or painted and labeled "Worship", "Love", "Family", "Friends", "Tree", "Gifts", etc. Let the boys suggest the "ingredients". The Chief Cook can use a "recipe card" which is really the script.

CHIEF: (Thoughtfully) Let's see, I think we should start with the most important ingredient. It is so often left for last and forgotten. Charles, bring me "Worship". (Charles does so) Let us use the greatest care in adding this. (They pour in very seriously and carefully).

Now, Abe, bring me the "Love". This is what holds the entire result together. (Helper Abe brings the "Love", which is added.)

Assistant Baker: Do we need both "Family" and "Friends", Sir? (He brings the two containers)

CHIEF: It would be all right with one or the other, but it's much better with both! Pour them in! (Assistant Baker enthusiastically adds them.)

ABE: (carrying "Gifts" container) Should we add the "Gifts" now?

CHIEF: (laughing) Oh ho! Those can be added any time! Some people think they come first! Go ahead. (Abe pours them in. The Chief Cook stirs the mixture and tastes it.) Hmm. It lacks something. It isn't spicy enough. (The helpers all take a taste with their spoons.)

Charles: I know! We have forgotten the tree!

CHIEF: Exactly! That always adds flavor. (Again he stirs, and again they all taste,) It still isn't right! (As they stand, thoughtfully tasting, Edmund enters) -

Edmund: What are you making?

OTHERS: It's a secret! -

Edmund: Please tell me!

CHIEF: Oh, all right. (He whispers into Edmund's ear) But it just isn't coming out the way it should!

Edmund: Here, let me taste it. (He does so, thinks a minute, then realizes what is needed.) I know just what it needs and where to get it. I'll be right back! (He dashes off stage and is back in a moment with a Cub Scout who is carrying an enormous box labeled "Good Will") It needs a lot of "Good Will" and Cubs always have a lot of that!

CHIEF: That's it exactly! Come on, boys, let's see if this doesn't do the trick! (They all help lift and pour. They stir and taste it.) Perfect! Let's serve it right now! (He reaches into the kettle and pulls out a long, folded paper banner. The helpers take their places in line, holding the banner for the audience to see as the Chief Cook pulls it out, It reads, "THE HAPPIEST HOLIDAY EVER.")

ALL: HAPPY HOLIDAYS, everybody!

(This dialogue is merely a suggestion; might also be used as a pantomime with good results. The skit is so much a pantomime that the dialogue is secondary. It can really be "hammed-up" during the tasting scenes.)

Stunts and Applauses

Rudolph Applause

Put thumbs to head with fingers pointing up to form antlers. Wrinkle nose and say, "Blink, blink, blink!"

Goodbye Santa Applause

Pretend to throw a pack onto your back and say, "Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night."

Cub #1: What do bears and wolves get when they walk along the beach?

Cub #2 I don't know.

Cub #1: Sandy Claws!

Rudolph: Put thumbs to head with fingers pointing up to form antlers, Wrinkle nose and say, "Blink, blink, blink?"

Frozen Cub: Wrap your arms around yourself, and say, "BRRRRR!"

Salt and pepper: Hold both fists out in front of you and raise up the thumbs. Then you turn them over and shake the shakers.

Milkshake: Shake contents in shaker bottle, slurp the drink.

Closing Ceremonies

SEASON OF LIGHTS

CUBMASTER: This is the season of lights. It is a time when the days are shorter so the nights are longer, yet somehow things are brighter. Stores and homes are bright with holiday lights.

Thousands of homes have a single light to show the way for the Christ child, others have

candles burning to commemorate the miracle of Hanukkah, and some light candles to honor the heritage of Kwanzaa. Even the stars in the

winter sky seem brighter at this time of year. But the most important

glow is from the spirit of goodwill that we live with year-round in the Cub

Scout Promise and the Law of the Pack. Before we all leave to get on

with our holiday celebrations, let's stand and repeat the Promise and

Law together. Happy Holidays!

Snowflake Closing Ceremony

Have Cub Scouts and family members cut out snowflakes when they enter the pack meeting, and put their names on them. (Six sided snowflakes can be made by folding a square sheet of paper in half, and then into thirds.) Tape or fasten to a wall, curtain, blackboard or window.

Have you ever caught a snowflake on a black piece of paper and studied it? It is so delicate and fragile that it melts almost before you can pick out its unique shape and structure. And it is unique, because each snowflake forms its own pattern of crystals in a six-sided shape. No two are exactly alike. There may be some that are similar, but none are the same.

Each of you created a snowflake tonight. Look at the variety and differences. Each of you started out with the same materials, but you created something that is truly unique.

Every person is unique, too. You may have your Mom's eyes, or your Dad's sense of humor. You may even be a twin and look so much alike that people have trouble telling you apart. But you are different in the things you like, the things you think, and the way you live your lives. You have your own unique

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contribution to make to the world. You have your own unique gifts and talents that will benefit you and those around you. You have your own unique style, laugh, dreams, and strengths.

One snowflake will melt in an instant. But think of what happens when all those snowflakes are together in one place at one time. A pile of snow can make a ski jump, block a highway, or collapse a roof. A mountain of snow can provide water for a town for the whole summer, or carve the sides of a canyon. A lot of snow can accomplish things one snowflake can't, but it takes all of them working together to be successful.

Let's unite ourselves, each unique individual, and work towards the common goals of citizenship, service, physical and spiritual strength, and brotherhood, and see what a contribution we can make to the world. Let's stand and repeat the Cub Scout Promise and the Law of the Pack.

Year's End Closing

San Francisco Bay Area Council

Staging: House lights are dimmed. Ceremony board or log containing 7 small candles and 1 tall candle representing the Spirit of Cub Scouting.

Cubmaster: (Lights candles) This last ceremony for 1998 is one of rededication. Tonight 4 candles represent the Cub Scout Ranks--Bobcat, Wolf, Bear, and Webelos. Will all Bobcat Cub Scouts and their parents please stand. Bobcats, do you promise in 1998 to do your best to help other people and obey the Law of the Pack, and to advance in rank?

Bobcats: We'll do our best! (Extinguish Bobcat candle).

Cubmaster: (Follow same procedure for Wolf and Bear Cub Scouts).

Cubmaster: Will all Webelos and their parents please stand. Webelos, do you promise in 1998 to do your best to help other people and obey the Law of the Pack and to earn the Arrow of Light Award if you have not already earned it?

Webelos: We'll do our best!

Cubmaster: Three candles and the Spirit of Cub Scouting candle remain burning. Those three candles stand for Follow, Helps, and Gives, which means, "We'll be loyal". Will you be loyal Cub Scouts in 1998? (All respond) (Three candles are extinguished). The Spirit of Cub Scouting will burn as it does in the hearts of Cub Scouts everywhere. May it continue to burn brightly in your hearts during the year of 1998 as we go upward and forward in Pack. Good Night, Cub Scouts.

Closing Ceremony

Cubmaster: This is the season of lights. It is a time when the days are shorter so the nights are longer, yet somehow things are brighter. Stores and homes are bright with holiday lights. Thousands of homes have a single light to show the way for the Christ child, others have candles burning to commemorate the miracle of Hanukkah, and some light candles to honor the heritage of Kwanzaa. Even the stars in the winter sky seem brighter at this time of year. But the most important glow is from the spirit of goodwill that WE live with year-round in the Cub Scout Promise and the Law of the Pack. Before we all leave to get on with our holiday celebrations, let's stand and repeat the Promise and Law together. Happy Holidays!

Closing

Heart of America Council

In the season of happy days,

I'd like you to keep in mind

the recipe for a wonderful

day — it works all year 'round.

Recipe for a Wonderful Day

- 1 cup friendly words
- 2 heaping cups understanding
- 2 cups milk of human kindness
- 2 heaping tablespoons of time and patience
- 1 dash gentle humor
- 1 pinch spice of life
- 1 drop warm personality

Measure words carefully; add cups of understanding to milk of human kindness. Sift together three times to make a smooth paste, cook with gas on the front burner. Keep temperature low so it never boils over, Season with gentle humor, warm personality and spice of life. Serve in individual molds. Works best with a good mixer.

Cubmaster's Minutes

SOME FINAL THOUGHTS FOR LEADERS OF CUB SCOUTS

When life gets hard, like it sometimes will, we occasionally need to have a "thought" to bolster us and help us remember that we are doing a good thing. Here are a couple that I liked:

Why God Made Boys Great Sauk Trail Council

God made a world out of his dreams Of magic mountains, oceans and streams. Prairies and plains and wooded land; Then paused and thought, "I need someone to stand On top of the mountains to conquer the seas, Explore the plains and climb the trees Someone to start out small, and grow Sturdy, strong like a tree," and so He created boys, full of spirit and fun To explore and conquer, to romp and run With dirty faces, banged-up shins, When he completed the task He'd begun, He surely said, "That's a job well done!"

What is a Cub Scout?

Cub Scouts are found everywhere-on top of, underneath, inside of, climbing on, swinging from, running around, or jumping to. Mothers love them, little girls hate them, older sisters and brothers tolerate them, adults ignore them, and Heaven protects them.

A Cub Scout is: Truth with dirt on his face. Beauty with a cut on its finger, wisdom with bubble gum in its hair; the Hope of the Future with a frog in its pocket.

Remember.....What I hear I forget What I see I remember What I do I understand.

Great Minds discuss ideas Average minds discuss events Small minds discuss people.

HAVE A GREAT HOLIDAY SEASON!