

SUCCESSFUL ROUNDTABLES
IDEAS WITH EMPHASIS ON IMPROVEMENT

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June 2006

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To the Doctoral Candidate Review Board:

I am submitting herewith a Dissertation written by Emmagene Roberts, entitled "Successful Roundtables – Ideas with Emphasis for Improvement". I have examined the final copy of this report for format and content and recommend that it be accepted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the requirements for the Degree of October of Commissioner Science.


Hulec Ratterree

We have read this Dissertation
and recommend its acceptance:


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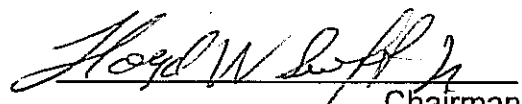

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
Introduction	1
General Information	2
Astronomy	3
Backpacking	4
Beach Sweep	5
Boating Safety	6
Camping	7
Commissioner Training / Responsibilities	10
Cooking	11
Crafts	12
Day Camp	13
Dog Care	14
Eagle Requirements	15
First Aid	16
Fundraiser Ideas	17
High Adventure Trips	18
Hiking and Backpacking	19
Kites	22
Knot Tying	23
Orienteering	24

Outdoor Code	25
Photography	26
Rechartering	27
Recipes	28
Rope Making	29
Scout Shows	30
Service Projects	31
Songs	32
Summer Camp	33
Training New Leaders	34
Trips Worth Mentioning	35
Troop History / Albums	36
Webelos-To-Scout Transition	37
Youth Protection	38
References	39

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this dissertation is to bring together and share a collection of ideas and information that has been accumulated over many years of attending monthly Roundtable meetings and to pass this collection on to other Scouting groups who may have similar needs. Some of the topics lean more towards the Cub Scout interest, while other more in-depth topics, relate to Boy Scouts. Let's face it, no one enjoys coming to a boring meeting, especially after leaving a regular eight-hour position. A more specific emphasis is to focus on topics that would make monthly Roundtable meetings more enjoyable, beneficial, and serve as a learning tool with positive results for improvement. It is hoped that by discussing several points, the mentioned topics would be worthwhile and only add to enthusiastic and enjoyable Roundtables that lead to growth in adult leader membership in Scouting. After all, Scouting is fun.

INTRODUCTION

Improving monthly Scout Leaders' Roundtable meetings is a desire that is mentioned quite frequently. Scouting has maintained its high standards since its beginning in 1910 and has gone on to a much broader scope that encompasses youth and adult leaders worldwide.

The most widely known programs are Tiger Cubs, Cub Scouts, and Boy Scouts which serve boys ages 6-18. Venturing serves boys and girls ages 14-20. Scout leaders start leading at age 21.

This document will attempt to cover many of the topics necessary to carry on a successful Roundtable meeting on a district level. Some of the topics lean more towards the Cub Scout interest, while other more in-depth topics, relate to Boy Scouts. With advanced planning, the selection of topics offered will definitely fill a need in order to carry on successful Roundtable meetings for adult leaders.

The author of this booklet has twenty plus years of experience in Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting, and Commissioner Training and would like to pass on what she has been associated with through her years in Scouting.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The main purpose of this report is to be a useful guide in helping other units who strive to make their Scout Leader Roundtables more beneficial and interesting within their area. To provide unit leadership with the will to do - - the morale, enthusiasm, inspiration, and vision that periodically renews the desire to serve youth. The topics listed are easy ideas that units can take and build upon. Roundtable meetings should be training sessions for all who take part. People will want to come when there is a genuine sense of fellowship. Roundtables should also be a fun time of learning and sharing ideas. It is my hope that units will use this booklet of ideas as a guide in reaching out to Scout leaders who are having difficulties in order to help make Roundtable meetings more interesting, enjoyable, and worthwhile.

ASTRONOMY

Astronomy is the science of the stars, planets, and all other heavenly bodies, dealing with their composition, motion, relative position, and size. Bringing astronomy to Roundtables isn't impossible and can be a learning and interesting experience to all. For instance, a Scoutmaster who teaches astronomy on a college level can bring a wealth of information to a Roundtable meeting. He can bring telescopes of several sizes and shapes that can easily be set up and demonstrated.

Astronomy is an interesting topic and is a Boy Scout Merit Badge that is offered. See Pamphlet No. 33303A.

Some of the topics covered include: Reach for the Stars, The Moon – Our Nearest Neighbor, The Planets, The Sun and Our Seasons, Constellations, Bright Stars, and Our Galaxy, and also Careers in Astronomy. By attending Roundtable meetings, Scout leaders can get the resource information needed to take back to their units.

Astronomy Merit Badge pamphlet – No. 33303A - Boy Scouts of America – 2005

BACKPACKING

If you accept the challenge of earning the Backpacking merit badge, the rewards will be great, and so will the demands. As you fulfill the requirements, you'll learn not only what equipment to carry on your back, but also what knowledge to carry in your head. You'll discover how to camp so cleanly no one can tell where you spent the night, and how to protect the land through which you travel. By attending monthly Roundtable meetings, Scout leaders learn about Leave No Trace while on trips.

By mastering the basics of backpacking, you'll be prepared for plenty of terrific treks as a Scout. Along the way, you will develop a lifelong respect for the wilderness and for yourself. See Backpacking Merit Badge pamphlet No. 33232B. Items covered in this pamphlet will include: What to Take – Equipment and Provisions; What to Learn – Knowledge and Skills; Preparing for a Trek; and Hitting the Trail.

Prior to the Roundtable meeting, Scout leaders can be asked to bring in their backpacks and discuss the difference in internal and external backpacks for all to see. Also Scout leaders can share their experiences as well.

Backpacking Merit Badge pamphlet – No. 33232B - Boy Scouts of America –
2005

BEACH SWEEP

Getting the news out well in advance about the Annual Beach Sweep is a great summertime event for all Scouts, leaders, and families. This event is held by Scouting districts as a way of bringing Scouts together to perform a good deed of community service as well as having a fun-filled camping weekend at the beach.

An example is the Palmetto Council's York District that plans a weekend at Lakewood Campground at Myrtle Beach, South Carolina once a year. Scouts start arriving and setting up tents on Friday evening. The Saturday morning event starts at 9:00 a.m. Scout groups are provided with trash bags and are assigned sections of the beach and campground that consists of picking up all trash and litter and sorting it into different bags. Bags are then brought back to a central headquarters for weighing. Groups are awarded for the number of bags of trash that has been collected.

Prior arrangements can be made with local businesses that reflect discounts for Scouts and Scout leaders who participate in the Beach Sweep. Some of the businesses who do give discounts have been the Myrtle Beach Aquarium, Putt-Putt Golf, and Pizza Inn.

Some Scouts take advantage of the pool by working on their swimming merit badge.

The Annual Beach Sweep ends on Sunday morning as all Scouting groups come together for an early morning worship service before heading home.

BOATING SAFETY

A video on Boating safety can be reviewed during monthly Roundtable meetings. Materials used to teach this can include the Boy Scout Video on boating safety. A copy of this video tape is maintained at your local Boy Scout Council Office and can be issued out. By viewing the video in a classroom setting, Scout leaders can be given the Safety Afloat card issued by the Boy Scouts of America.

A good time for this class is before summer and during summer camp activities. All Scout leaders should be up to speed on rules and regulations and needed equipment before any boating or swimming activities ever begin.

CAMPING

Roundtables are an excellent resource in learning about successful camping adventures. Scout leaders and assistants attend Roundtables anxious to tell their story.

Camping! For centuries, explorers, pioneers, and adventurers lived under the open skies. When Lord Baden-Powell founded the Scouting movement in the early 1900s, he made camping a primary activity of every patrol and troop. He encouraged each Scout to master the art of living out-of-doors, for he believed a young man able to spend days and nights in the forest would have the confidence to meet the other challenges life would present.

Boy Scouts everywhere are still eager to strap on their packs and head out for a few days or weeks of living in the open. You can have the time of your life working, playing, and learning together, knowing more than ever that you are part of a great Scouting tradition.

If camping is to be successful, you'll need to know what you are doing, and that's where the Camping Merit Badge pamphlet can help as a guide. The content of the pamphlet covers three main topics such as preparation, making camp, and breaking camp. Valuable information covers where to camp, planning activities, what to take, the campsite, duty roster tasks, fires, cooking, and protecting yourself and your camp, and finally, breaking camp.

Another valuable resource on the topic of camping is talking with other Scouters. Keeping your eyes and ears open, pick up on the pointers you can from the

seasoned woodsmen in your Troop, and before long you'll be as skilled a camper as any explorer or adventurer who ever slept beneath a sky spangled with stars.

The out-of-doors can teach us a lot about ourselves and the world in which we live. One of the most important lessons is that the freedom to camp has a price. By mastering the skills of minimum-impact camping or Leave No Trace Camping, you can be sure you are doing your share.

Within the outdoor program of the Boy Scouts of America, there are many different camping skill levels. Camping practices that are appropriate for any outing, long-term Scout camp, or short-term Unit camping do not apply to wilderness areas. Scouts and Explorers need to adopt attitudes and patterns of behavior that respect the rights of others including future generations to enjoy the outdoors.

Camping Merit Badge pamphlet – No. 33256B - Boy Scouts of America - 2005

Necessary Items Needed for Camping

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- Bathing Suit
- Camera
- Cell phone including emergency numbers
- Clothes pins for hanging up wet items
- Compass
- Cup with handle
- First Aid kit
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Food
- Good Attitude
- Insect repellent
- Jacket
- Map
- Matches (in Ziplock container)
- Mirror
- Money
- Notebook and pencil
- Permission slip
- Plate
- Pillow (small)
- Pocketknife
- Poncho or rain suit
- Prescription medicines (including dosage instructions)
- Scout handbook (in Ziplock bag)
- Shoes
- Sleeping bag, blanket or sheet
- Socks
- Spoon and fork
- Suntan lotion
- Tent and ground cloth
- Toilet tissue (in Ziplock bag)
- Toiletry items (toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, personal hygiene items)
- Towel and washcloth
- Trash bags (large)
- Trousers
- Underclothes
- Uniforms (Class A and B)
- Water bottle or canteen
- Whistle

COMMISSIONER TRAINING

A portion of a monthly Roundtable meeting can be set aside for Commissioner planning sessions. Commissioners are liaisons to Scout leaders and can be key people to a Unit, District, and Council. Their purpose is to be helpers and friends to Units who need assistance. Each Council has various levels of Commissioners such as a Council Commissioner; each District has a District Commissioner and each District has a Unit Commissioner as well as a Roundtable Commissioner. The District Commissioner is one of the three key people within a Scouting District.

Other training for Commissioners offered each year is the Commissioner College. All Councils in a Region come together for special advanced leader training courses. At Commissioner College, Scout leaders can achieve the Bachelors and Masters Degree level courses as well as Roundtable instructional information and finally, complete the requirements to achieve the title of Doctor of Commissioner Science Degree. The newly trained Commissioner can then return to his/her area and be more effective in accomplishing goals.

COOKING

Cooking demonstrations held at Roundtable meetings can be very informative which leads to great fellowship and fun. Planning ahead and having food items and equipment brought in will allow the observers to see that planning a meal well in advance is essential. Also, planning ahead can resolve the most famous question asked which is "What time do we eat?"

One resource guide is the Boy Scouts Cooking Merit Badge pamphlet. This booklet covers materials such as cooking gear, menu planning, fires, specialty cooking, recipes, and cooking and health. Have one on display for others to see.

Scoutmasters are excellent cooks who can be very creative in their own concoctions. Chili cookoffs are very popular. Ask each member of the Roundtable to bring a favorite recipe to the Roundtable meeting to share on the night of the cooking demonstrations.

Cub Scout leaders like to share ideas and recipes as well. Another resource book is *Camp Cookery for Small Groups* which is published by the Boy Scouts of America. This book is good for groups of eight.

Cooking Merit Badge pamphlet – No. 33257 -Boy Scouts of America – 1991

Camp Cookery for Small Groups – No. 33592A - Boy Scouts of America – 1997

CRAFTS

Roundtables are excellent ways to introduce new craft projects and to also show off the old ones to Scout leaders.

Each Roundtable meeting has a theme for the coming month. Our Roundtable Commissioner or other leaders take this opportunity to share ideas consisting of the theme. The Scout leaders can then take these ideas back to their Troop or Pack.

Some very useful resource materials are provided in the Program Helps booklet provided by the National Office of the BSA. This booklet has complete plans for Den and Pack meetings including openings, games, outdoor activities, songs, and crafts. Another resource is a quarterly issued magazine called *Pack of Fun* found in most grocery stores.

Cub Scout Program Helps – Boy Scouts of America – issued annually

Pack of Fun Magazine – issued quarterly

DAY CAMP

Planning of a successful Cub Scout Day Camp actually starts six months in advance as Scout leaders make arrangements for a week-long event.

Ways of getting information out to Cub Scouts is through monthly Scout Leader Roundtables or through mailings. Scout leaders can take the Day Camp forms and handout to parents at their weekly meetings.

Cub Scout Day Camp is an excellent opportunity for all Scouts first through fifth grade to enjoy a week of fun-filled activities such as making patrol flags, games, crafts, skits, songs, and working on achievements.

The objective of Day Camp is to have fun while learning and making new friends with other Cub Packs as well as working on achievements for completion of badges.

At monthly Roundtable meetings, Scout leaders learn valuable information concerning how to become a Cub Scout Day Camp Director. Those who are interested are referred to the Council Office for consideration to attend a weekend Camp School.

DOG CARE

Dog Care is one of the Scout Merit Badges offered and is Pamphlet No. 33289A. The secret to successfully earning a merit badge is for one to use both the Boy Scout pamphlet along with suggestions of a counselor. An interesting Roundtable meeting could include a planned visit from a veterinarian who could bring a dog and discuss dog care with Scouts and Scout leaders. Some topics that could be covered at a Roundtable meeting could include discussions of different breeds, parts of a dog, feeding schedules, food used, housing, exercising, grooming and bathing. There is much to be learned from the Dog Care pamphlet. The pamphlet also includes responsible dog ownership, training your dog, illnesses, as well as dogs and the Law.

Dog Care Merit Badge pamphlet - No. 33289A – Boy Scouts of America – 1984
Revision

EAGLE REQUIREMENTS

Every Scout leaders' goal is to see young men achieve the rank of Eagle during their tenure while being a member of the Boy Scouts of America. To achieve this rank requires the completion of 21 merit badges plus a required project that benefits the community in some way. Of the 21 merit badges, 12 are required and these are First Aid, Citizenship in the Community, in the Nation, and in the World, Communication, Personal Fitness, Emergency Preparedness or Life Saving, Environmental Science, Personal Management, either Swimming, Hiking or Cycling, Camping, and Family Life.

A portion on the Roundtable agenda can be designated to Eagle Scout projects. Commissioners can ask Scoutmasters to bring Eagle project books to Roundtable meetings in order for information to be shared.

www.Google.com - Reference for finding list of Eagle projects

FIRST AID

What is first aid? First aid is just that – the first aid, the first help, or the immediate care and help given to someone who is hurt or suddenly becomes ill. Classes on First Aid and CPR will benefit all adult Scout leaders and Scouts of all ages. What a better way to get certified than at Monthly Roundtable Meetings. These classes can be arranged prior to Roundtable Meetings through the American Red Heart Association or Emergency Response personnel or certified nurses so that specific qualifications can be accomplished. My thoughts are that all Scout leaders should be certified in First Aid and CPR.

First Aid is also a merit badge for older Scouts and this can be taught during weekly meetings, on campouts, or during summertime Scout Camp. See the First Aid Merit Badge pamphlet.

First Aid Merit Badge pamphlet – No. 33301B - Boy Scouts of America – 2005

FUNDRAISER IDEAS

Roundtable meetings are a great resource of information regarding the subject of fundraisers. I've compiled a list of some fundraiser ideas that are proven to be helpful ways of raising funds for units. All fundraiser ideas should first have proper approval from the Council Office.

Aluminum can recycling

Annual Boy Scout Trails End Popcorn sale

Bake sales

Breakfast, lunch or dinner meals for the community by selling advanced tickets

Car washes

Christmas tree sales

Donut sales

Raffles if offered in conjunction with a sponsoring organization

Yard sales

HIGH ADVENTURE TRIPS

By attending Roundtable Meetings, Scout leaders can learn valuable information about high adventure trips.

High adventure trips are Scouting trips that are longer than a one-week stay and are geared for older Scouts ages fourteen and above. Much preparation, time, expense, and planning go into successful high adventure trips.

An example of a high adventure trip could be a journey to the Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, New Mexico.

Most Scouts and leaders need an extended time to get in good physical shape in order to undertake such an adventure. Therefore, planning and carrying out several outings or shakedown prior to the actual time of the high adventure trip are necessary.

Another Scout high adventure trip can include the Florida Sea Base where many enjoy scuba diving.

The Northern Tier is another high adventure trek that includes canoeing in the northern United States and Canada area.

By contacting the high adventure locations, brochures can be mailed to you and your troop. Also you may visit the Boy Scout website to obtain more information on high adventure treks.

HIKING AND BACKPACKING

This topic of hiking and backpacking is an interesting one for any level Scout leader and much can be discussed and learned by attending Roundtable meetings. Exhibits of equipment such as different kinds of backpacks and stoves can be brought into the meetings and discussed.

A complete very useful guide is a book found at the local library entitled *The Hiker's and Backpacker's Handbook*. For the beginner there are sections on starting out, basic rules, how to outfit oneself with the right clothing and the right hiking boots, trail foods, how much weight you can carry, guides for using map and compass, first aid, and much more.

Backpacking may pose physical challenges, but for the most part, those challenges are well within the average person's ability to achieve. The secret lies in learning to deal with and enjoy the challenges of the outdoors. Like any other physical activity, backpacking is more enjoyable the fitter you are. A good thought is to discuss your concerns with your doctor about your physical fitness before you ever begin.

Backpacking is indeed for everyone, whether fit or fat, couch potato or marathon runner, young or old or somewhere in between. All it takes is a desire to try and an openness to try new adventures. A sense of humor doesn't hurt. And neither does a little preparation.

Local outfitter shops are very helpful in learning about where to hike, trails in specific areas, maps, what equipment is needed, and even upcoming seminars on how to backpack. Also Scout leaders can be good resources.

As you look through the clothes, tents, sleeping bags, stoves, and the accessories – ask yourself: “Do I really need this?” “Can I do without this?” Is it worth the weight?” “Is there anything else I could use instead?” Because if there is a single eternal, inviolable law of backpacking, it is this: If you buy it, you are going to carry it.

The more you talk to other backpackers, the more you will realize that everyone is different; one person’s necessity may be another person’s luxury.

Backpackers also have a love-hate relationship with gear. They know that with the right sleeping bag, you can doze comfortably when it is 30 below zero; with a good tent, you can stay dry in a downpour. A reliable stove promises that you will always have a hot meal. Good gear can make the difference between comfort; between safety and danger. That’s the love part.

The hate part is just as simple. Every piece of gear adds weight to your backpack. It only takes several ounces here and a few pounds there for communing with nature to turn into a battle against gravity. Experienced backpackers know that gear is important. They know what to put in backpacks and what to leave out.

The secret of losing weight has long been known to backpackers: hike all day for several days on end and eat only what you can carry. Before long, you’ll discover that backpacking is one of the best ways to lose weight and improve fitness ever invented. Start simple, look to other hikers for ideas. Hikers will share advice and stories. Hikers will also help you set up your tent, help get your stove to light and help untangle rope.

Backpacking is a marvelous adventure, and once you get going, chances are you will want to share your experiences with family and friends. Introducing others to the woods is special, whether you are an enthusiastic beginner or an old-timer who regularly leads others.

A successful hiking partnership begins with communication. People go into the backcountry for dozens of different reasons: to photograph flowers; to push themselves physically; to get in shape; to identify mosses and lichens; to sit by a lake with nothing to do but daydream. Before you head out, it's important to think about the kind of experience you want to have, and to talk about it with your hiking partners. And finally, enjoy the adventure.

The Hiker's & Backpacker's Handbook – by Bill Merrill, New York, NY - 1971

KITES

The subject of kites is interesting especially to Cub Scouts. Planning of kite flying events can take place at monthly Roundtable meetings among Cub leaders at their breakout sessions. Kites are indeed aircraft; they are heavier-than-air objects that must be designed and constructed and must be properly launched and controlled in their flight. Kites can be as simple or as complex, as large or as small as the creator desires. Kites can be constructed from nothing more than old newspapers and a few strips of bamboo, or they can be colorful, elaborate, hand-painted works of art.

Materials and examples can be brought in for display at Roundtable meetings for members to view and pull ideas from.

Local libraries are a great resource to find out more about kites.

KNOT TYING

Knot tying is a fun way of learning knots and can easily become an activity at Roundtable meetings. The more experienced Scout leaders are usually well versed in tying several and more complicated knots; therefore, these leaders can help the newcomers learn some of the more easy knots. There are some knots that Scouts are required to know and so should Scout leaders. In the Scout Shop at the Council Office is a book called *Knots and How to Tie Them* and this can be a very useful tool. To become efficient in knot tying takes practice and many activities such as camporees offer knot tying competitions which are graded on speed.

Some of the more basic knots are the square knot, clove hitch, bowline, two half hitches, and the taut-line hitch.

Knots and How to Tie Them – No. 33170 - Boy Scouts of America - 1978

ORIENTEERING

Orienteering can be a fun game to bring to the Scout Leader Roundtable meetings. Obstacle courses can be set up with a prize at the end for those who reach the end. Many leaders, especially Cub leaders, can learn the skill of reading a map and compass. Plan ahead and have an easy map of the area, a compass, curiosity, and common sense to play the game. This is an activity that can be set up outside or in a room that is marked with specific areas that you need to reach before moving to the next area.

Another helpful resource book is found at the local library entitled *Finding Your Way in the Outdoors*, by Robert L. Mooers, Jr. This book meets the need of the growing number of outdoorsmen who are taking to the backcountry for hunting, fishing, or go-light camping. The author explains how anyone can use a compass and map to find his way in the wilds.

Orienteering Merit Badge Pamphlet – No. 33385 – Boy Scouts of America - 1992

Finding Your Way in the Outdoors by Robert L. Mooers, Jr. – New York, NY - 1972

OUTDOOR CODE

As an American, I will do my best to –

Be clean in my outdoor manners. I will treat the outdoors as a heritage to be improved for our greater enjoyment. I will keep my trash and garbage out of America's waters, fields, woods, and roadways.

Be careful with fire. I will prevent wildfire. I will build my fire in a safe place and be sure it is out before I leave.

Be considerate in the outdoors. I will treat public and private property with respect. I will remember that use of the outdoors is a privilege I can lose by abuse.

Be conservation-minded. I will learn how to practice good conservation of soil, waters, forests, minerals, energy, grasslands, and wildlife; and I will urge others to do the same. I will use sportsmanlike methods in all my outdoor activities.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Photography is a Boy Scout merit badge. Contact and arrange for a photographer or one who teaches photography come to a Roundtable meeting. Cameras of various sizes and shapes can be brought in for displaying camera parts, film, carrying cases, etc.

The studio will have many worthwhile ideas for an enjoyable Scout meeting. Photography can expand into learning of the film processing area and the processes of developing from start to finish.

The photographers' studio can also lead to sessions in creating memorable picture albums for troops.

Photography Merit Badge pamphlet – No. 33340A - Boy Scouts of America - 2005

RECHARTERING

Roundtable meetings are excellent opportunities to learn about rechartering, asking questions, and the correct way of filling out the unit recharter packets. Carefully reviewing the troop and pack recharter packets will ensure that every Scout, Scout leader, and all adult leaders are counted. Commissioners and Unit Commissioners can help with the rechartering process encouraging troops and packs of the turn-around time. It is extremely important to have recharter packets filled out properly and turned in before the final date with proper signatures in order for troops and packs to continue. Recharter packets are then submitted to the council office for proper recognition and membership cards can then be issued. Recharter packets not turned in on a timely manner could cause the charter to lapse and lose their creditability.

RECIPES

Having a portion of the Roundtable devoted to discussion of simple, easy recipes will spark interest among the avid campers and Scouters. Asking members to bring one of their most successful recipes to share or trade with other members will have the same concept as a patch trade. With advanced planning, everyone could get a taste of a dish before heading home from the meeting. Also note that the planning that is done before going to camp can do much to minimize recipe problems. Various cookbooks such as *Camp Cookery for Small Groups* have been published and are found in the local Scout Shop.

Camp Cookery for Small Groups – No. 33592A - Boy Scouts of America – 1997

ROPE MAKING

Scouts and Scout leaders are always using rope for various projects. One Scoutmaster made a simple rope making machine and brought it to Roundtable for leaders to see how rope is actually made.

These demonstrations can be carried back to unit meetings for Scouts to practice making their own rope.

Each Council Scout Shop has the book entitled *Knots and How to Tie Them*, that has a section about rope making and directions on how to make a rope making machine. Instructions are also included on whipping the ends of the rope so as to keep from raveling.

Knots and How to Tie Them – No. 33170 - Boy Scouts of America – 1978

SCOUT SHOWS

Planning a Scout Show is not a simple task by any means. Discussions at Roundtables along with advanced planning can be very successful. A Scout Show Committee is recommended and in place well in advance can assure nothing but success for all who attend the event. Scout Shows can demonstrate to other Scout units, as well as the public, various activities that are taught in Scouting. Demonstrations can include making craft items, participating in rope making, outdoor cooking as well as exhibits. Scout Shows are great places for the younger Scouts to enjoy the annual District Pinewood Derby Race as this usually draws large crowds. Scout Shows usually take place either at a mall, or at an easy accessible area for public view.

SERVICE PROJECTS

The topic of service projects can be a perfect discussion at Roundtable Meetings. By planning ahead, community, church, and civic leaders can be invited to share their needs with all Scout leaders. Scout leaders can then take these ideas back to their perspective units. Many ideas can be and should be discussed with Scouts and to stress the benefits of being helpful to others for a good cause.

Discussion of service projects can be Eagle projects.

SONGS

Most everyone can enjoy a silly song occasionally, especially Scouts. Scouts usually learn new songs at summer camp each year. Ask any Scout if he knows a silly Scout song, and in most every case, he does. Silly songs are easy to remember. Sharing a song at a Roundtable meeting for adults can add a different flavor from the normal routine agenda and will put a smile on your face. In the Council Scout Shops one can find the *Boy Scout Songbook as well as the Cub Scout Songbook*. These books include fun songs, action songs, banquet songs, patriotic songs, inspirational songs as well as closing songs.

One may visit the website MacScouter.com for more Scouting songs that can be printed off also.

Boy Scout Songbook – No. 33224 – Boy Scouts of America – 1970

Cub Scout Songbook – No. 33222A – Boy Scouts of America - 1969

www.MacScouter.com

SUMMER CAMP

Much planning is needed to get Packs and Troops ready for summer camp adventures. Roundtable discussions are an excellent resource of information that can be shared in preparation for the week-long summer camp. Most Packs and Troops are encouraged to go and support their own Council camp. Some units may decide to pay a portion of the registration expense one year in advance so as to secure the particular camp spot of their choice.

A Scout who attends summer camp can complete two, three, or even four merit badges and also come away with lasting memories. The Boy Scout Handbook is another good resource to find out what items should or should not be carried to camp.

Reference – BSA Council Websites

TRAINING NEW LEADERS

The Scouting program welcomes any adult, age 21 or older, to join with the Boy Scouts of America and to promote the unique values that Scouting encourages.

Training sessions for new leaders are essential and can be scheduled at monthly Roundtable meetings and even taught there. Some districts may decide to hold the training classes on a particular day when most can attend and get the full benefit of the training and discussions on particular topics.

Many important issues are covered during the training classes. Topics covered may include the different uniform items that should or should not be worn, and also rules and regulations are addressed. Most of all, new leaders will come away with enthusiasm that can be carried and shared with units. Keeping it fun – keeping it simple is a phrase that is always a winner when dealing with Scouts as well as other adult leaders.

The Cub Scout Leader Fast Start Training video can be checked out from the Council office. It is designed to help get a new leader started successfully.

The topic of youth protection is included into the new leader training program because of its importance. For this, a video is shown to the adult participants, and followed by discussions. Also see section entitled Youth Protection.

The participants who complete the training classes are awarded with a "Trained" patch which is worn on their Class A uniform sleeve.

Cub Scout Leader Fast Start Training Videotape – LW/AV-01V022A

TRIPS WORTH MENTIONING

Roundtable meetings offer a wealth of information to those who choose to come and reap the benefits. A portion of the monthly Roundtable could be designated for information on trips worth mentioning. Some troops travel and venture more than others, but all can enjoy the knowledge learned from those who take trips that have lasting memories. Videos or slides can be shown, pictures can be displayed, posters placed around the room, photo albums placed around, and a question and answer time can all be shared.

TROOP HISTORY / ALBUMS

A troop's history is a treasure that should be carried on from year to year. One way to display that history is to provide a picture album or scrapbook showing Scouts, Scout leaders, special events and places traveled to. In the history or album can also be newspaper clippings of special events of interest. Scouts and family members cherish looking at the growth of a troop and usually are amazed on the longevity that a troop has survived and how people change. Some troops challenge Scouts to hold the office of being a troop historian with requirements showing responsibility for keeping and updating a troop album for a period of time.

WEBELOS-TO-SCOUT TRANSITION

Webelos-to-Scout transition videotape is provided by the Council Scout Shop and explains the roles of key people involved in the transition from Webelos Scout to Boy Scout. Webelos-to-Scout transition is a big deal as it shows a Scout's progress in rank through the Cubbing years and into graduation, bridging over into a new Scout Troop. Yes, this is a big accomplishment for both the Scout and his parents. The key factor in the transition process is the establishment of a working relationship between a Cub Pack and a Troop. As a Webelo, a Cub Scout has spent five years growing, playing, making new friends, and learning the basics of a young Scout. An activity at Roundtables can be the preparation of a bridging ceremony. Make plans for a graduating Cub Scout to be met by his new Scout leader and members of his new Troop. Discuss patrol methods where the new member will be placed so he can further grow, mature, and learn about merit badges and more about the trail to Eagle where he will learn will be his ultimate goal.

A Commissioner's vital task is to ensure that every Webelos Scout continues his Scouting experience as a Boy Scout.

Webelos-to-Scout Transition Videotape – LW/AV-02V012 – Released 2000

YOUTH PROTECTION

All levels of Scout leaders are required to watch the Youth Protection video once a year. This video is provided by each Scout Council Office. Roundtable meetings are a most fitting location to view this video and get signed off as participated. Everyone who watches the video is eligible to receive the Youth Protection pocket card issued by the Council Office.

A Youth Protection Guidelines video can be issued out by the Council Office. The training material provides an overview of the developmental transitions experienced by young people and how those transitions relate to the personal safety concerns of the Scout program.

Youth Protection Guidelines Videotape – LW/AV-03V014 – Released 1999

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