District Webelos Activity Badge Midway

Vicki Sargent
Webelos – to – Scout Co-coordinator
Pigeon River District
Daniel Boone Council
Boy Scouts of America

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Piedmont-Appalachian College of Commissioner Science

Lees-McCrae College

Banner Elk, North Carolina

Dr. Lloyd W. Swift, Jr., Advisor



To the Doctoral Candidate Review Board:

I am submitting herewith a Dissertation written by Vicki Sargent, entitled "District Webelos Activity Badge Midway". 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 Degree of Doctor of Commissioner Science.

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We have read this Dissertation And recommend its acceptance:

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Accepted for the Piedmont-Appalachian College of Commissioner Science:

Chairman,

Doctoral Candidate Review Board And Daniel Boone Council

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My deepest thanks to Lloyd W. Swift, Jr. for his direction, support, and encouragement as I labored to complete my Dissertation.

I thank my Review Board members for their time and useful insights.

I deeply appreciate the incredible support of my friends Melissa Welch, Unit Commissioner, and Peggy Carver, Roundtable Commissioner. Their help was instrumental in the completion of my project.

Thanks to Dean Castaldo, Todd Barbee, and Ann Bevilacqua for putting on the programs, and Eric Smathers, and Wayne Davis for their contributions. Thanks also to Greg and Kathy Davis, Rita Moore, and Kay Canter for their assistance with the boys at the Activity Badge Midway.

Thanks to God for granting me the abilities and perseverance to complete this Dissertation.

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this project is to outline the procedures for planning a District Webelos activity badge midway. This project is especially useful to den leaders who have newly recruited fifth grade boys (Webelos II) who wish to earn their Arrow of Light. It will also aid den leaders who feel inadequate or do not have the resources to put on programs for the more technical activity badges. Topics include seeking support, planning the program, notifying den leaders, having a backup plan, and how to handle the paperwork.

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EVENT PICTURES

INTRODUCTION

Within the process of the Webelos – to – Scout transition, success depends on a quality Webelos program. Because of the fast Webelos leader turnover, quality activity badge programs are not always offered. This is especially true with the more technical groups. Also when a newly recruited fifth grade boy joins the Webelos den, his required activity badges have sometimes already been presented, and the den leader is in a position of having to repeat a presentation. An event, which would present some of these activity badges at a central location on a Saturday, would solve these problems. By recruiting professional people and experienced Scouters to put on the event, a quality program would be assured. The following chapters will outline a successful plan for executing such a program.

RESEARCH

The purpose for this research is to establish whether there is a need for an activity badge midway in the District. Information can be acquired by speaking to Webelos den leaders at Roundtable during the breakout session. Those who cannot make it to the Roundtable may have to be visited during their den meetings. Contact by telephone or e-mail is also an option. Letters can also be sent with a self-addressed response card included.

In presenting this idea to the den leaders, be sure to include all activity badges that will be covered. If some activity badges are not covered in full, be sure to let the leaders know what they will have to do so that the Scouts can complete their requirements. Present the idea to the den leaders with the attitude that you are assisting them in their Webelos program and relieving them of some of the pressure. Let them know that you are including some of the more technical activity badges such as Scientist, Engineer, Readyman, and Geology as well as those required for Arrow of Light. Fitness, Citizen, and Scholar can only be done partially in the event and will have to be finished in the dens. This is also a good time to ask for volunteers to assist on event day. If you have a good percentage of the den leaders that wish to participate and support an activity badge midway, then continue to the next planning phase.

FINDING SUPPORT

As with any program presented on a district level, you must get the approval of the District Executive, and the District Commissioner. They may also be useful in helping you recruit a quality staff. The District Executive might find out if this has been done in any other districts in your Council. If it has been, communication with the leaders in that district would prove helpful. They could advise you about what has worked well and what has not.

The best source of support will come from other commissioners in your district.

The Roundtable Commissioner may have ideas for activities between sessions. Other commissioners may be willing to help as a support staff. They may also serve as a sounding board as you plan the event. They are a good resource for locating a professional teaching staff because they reach out into all physical areas of the community. Make them partners in your project.

PLANNING

The first step in planning an Activity Badge Midway is to decide which activity badge programs to present. Your first priority should be the activity badges that are required for the Webelos Badge and the Arrow of Light. Your second consideration should be the degree of difficulty of the activity badge. Chose those that require a professional person to visit the den. There are some programs that are better taught by people who work in that field. Some examples are Readyman, Scholar, Geologist, Engineer, and Scientist.

The next step is to set a date for the event and set up a schedule. Chose a neutral and central location that is easy to fine, as parents will be bringing the Scout. A map may be helpful. When building a schedule be sure to allow sufficient time for the instructor to cover everything necessary for the completion of their part of the activity badge. Include a half hour funch break, and a sufficient break between sessions for a scheduled physical activity to release some of the boy's energy. Keep the schedule flexible to accommodate the needs and availability of the teaching staff. Once you have a schedule you can begin recruiting your staff.

A good place to start is the local school system including the community colleges.

Local fire departments are a good source for EMTs who might be willing to teach

Readyman. Ask den leaders if they have parents who might be qualified in any of these

fields. Boy Scout troops are another source of personnel. It is a good idea to have

multiple instructors in any activity badge presentation. As we know, the unexpected usually happens and someone does not show up. Be sure to have enough personnel to cover the material. The Chairman should not be involved in any presentation and should be "floating" to deal with any situations that may arise. Besides the teaching staff, recruit someone to plan physical activities between sessions. These should be activities that can be done inside in case the weather is bad. Knot tying relays are an example.

An important part of your staff will be the people who are in charge of registration at the event. They will be "directing traffic" so to speak. After all the boys are there and the Midway is underway, these people can assemble the paperwork that the Scouts will be taking home. It is important to have someone with a computer / scanner / copier to assemble the paperwork. This will be covered in chapter six. Once your staff is in place, you can begin presenting your plan to the den leaders.

NOTIFICATION AND FOLLOW-UP

The next step is to draft a letter to the den leaders explaining the event. Be sure to include the date, times of each activity badge presentation, location and directions, and a contact telephone number. Include, on a separate paper, a registration form that the den leaders can list each Scout individually and check off which activity badges he will be taking. Follow up as soon as possible. Ask the den leaders to bring their registration forms to the next Roundtable. You may want to include a stamped self-addressed envelope in case they need to be mailed back to you. You may have to visit some dens to collect the registration forms. Be sure to call the den leaders in advance if you are going to visit a den so they can be ready with a completed registration.

Beginning several weeks before the event, call each den leader to remind them. Ask them to give the contact telephone number to the parents. Be sure to include all the information in Council and District newsletters. You may be able to put a notification in a local newspaper. Do not forget to follow up with your staff. Make sure they have everything they need for their presentation. If the staff is in need of supplies you may consider charging a nominal fee for the Midway. Consider giving some of the fee charged to the host for use of the facility.

BACK UP PLAN

The standing rule in planning all Scouting events is to have a Plan B.

Have your support staff ready to fill in if an instructor cannot come at the last minute.

Support staff should be chosen from a pool of experienced Webelos leaders that can fill in if someone is unable to come. Be sure to have extra supplies ready, such as pencils, markers, and paper. Have back up props such as a catapult, a circuit board, and materials for making a bridge for Engineer. Have on hand a first aid kit and extra supplies that can be used for Readyman. A labeled rock collection and posters showing volcanoes, geysers, and earthquakes world be helpful for Geologist. Have ready what you would need to perform the experiments in Scientist. If they were not needed, these items would add to the program.

Young boys are naturally full of energy and can sit and pay attention only so long. Have at your disposal a collection of activities for in between each session in case your physical activities leader is unable to come. Relay races give an outlet for energy, and can be in many forms. Knot tying relays are a good way to teach and reinforce this skill. Be sure to have several four-foot lengths of rope and a broomstick on hand. Alter the running portion of the race by having the boys run backwards, skipping, crawling, or crab walking to the spot where they will tie the knot. Have parents assist in these activities as they may also need to get up and move around.

PAPERWORK AND DOCUMENTATION

When all registration forms are returned, draft a list of Scouts who are participating in the Midway. State on the form which Pack they are from and leave a space for checking off that they have paid their fee, and a list of which courses they are taking. This will make it easy for the person handling the registration. Be sure to leave blank spaces at the bottom for last minute entries.

Scanning or copying the requirements page of each activity badge that will be presented provides a work sheet for each Webelos to record which activity badges were completed or which requirements covered. Be sure to provide a copy to each instructor in advance so they can plan their presentation. As each requirement is completed, the instructor should check it off on a master sheet. At the end of a session, check them off on each boy's requirement page and place it in a folder with his name on it. Any drawings or notes he has made will also go in this folder that he can take back to his den leader.

An important part of any event is recognition of the staff. Prepare certificates of appreciation for each of them to be presented at the end of each session. It makes a good impression to have one or two of the Scouts to do the presenting. These certificates are available on many of the Scout clip art CDs. They should be printed on card stock to reduce the chance of being creased or damaged.

Be sure to keep master copies of all paperwork for future reference. Keeping them in folders in your computer, or on disk will make future changes easier. Some den leaders may not get all the information and you may have to refer back to your master copies to make sure each boy gets credit for the work that they did.

Another important part of documentation is photography. It is a good idea to have someone there to do nothing but take pictures. Putting these on a storyboard is a good way to show the event. It can be displayed at Roundtables, Scout night at schools, and other District events. This is also a good way to promote the Midway for the next year.

District Webelos Activity Badge Midway

CHAPTER 7

CONCLUSION

On November 16, 2002 we held the first Pigeon River District Webelos Activity Badge Midway. It was conducted at the Central Haywood Church of Christ in Clyde, NC. Registration was from 7:45AM to 8:AM. Twenty-one Webelos Scouts arrived representing six Packs to work on seven activity badges.

The first session was Scholar, which was conducted by Todd Barbee, a special education teacher at Canton Middle School, and former District Executive for BSA. The second activity scheduled was Engineer. The instructor who was to teach at that time was sick. We filled in by using the resources at hand. Several parents who were there assisted. One father was a contractor, and another had knowledge of electricity. One mother was a computer engineer. Still another father contributed with his knowledge of bridge construction. The boys heard from several speakers instead of just one, which kept their attention. The support staff agreed afterward that the best way to present Engineer in the future would be to have multiple teachers.

The third and last session before lunch was Geologist. Melissa Welch and Vicki Sargent instructed that activity badge. Ms. Sargent had background in college geology and Mrs. Welch had extensive knowledge of gemstones. They displayed a large rock collection for the boys to see and touch. Lunch was from 11:30 to 12PM, after which

Dean Castaldo, an EMT from Clyde Fire Department taught Readyman. The next activity badge was Scientist, taught by Dr. Ann Beviłacqua, a local veterinarian. Melissa Welch conducted the last two sessions. They were Citizen and Fitness.

The first Pigeon River District Activity Badge Midway was a success and will be conducted again next year. The den leaders were pleased with the results. All of the instructors were interesting and related well to the boys. One change that is being considered is to have more hands on activities so that the Scouts are not sitting as long at a time. Longer breaks will also give them more time to move around. All things considered, the staff was pleased with the results.

REFERENCES

1. Boy Scouts of America. Webelos Scout Book 1998.

WEBELOS ACTIVITY BADGE MIDWAY

An Activity Badge Midway will be held on November 16 at the Church of Christ in Clyde. We will be offering Scholar, Engineer, Geologist, Readyman, Scientist, Citizen, and Fitness. Your Webelos can come for as many of these courses as they need to. The cost is \$2 per Scout for the day whether they take one or all of the activity badge courses. I will return the paperwork on each Scout to the Webelos leaders during the following week. We are hoping this will relieve some of the pressure, especially for new Webelos II, and help them on the road toward their Arrow of Light.

The schedule is as follows. Please talk this over with parents and return to me a list of Scouts and the courses they will be taking so that I can get that information to the instructors. If they are staying for the afternoon they should bring a sack lunch. Parents and leaders are welcome to attend. Because of the tightness of the schedule good conduct is necessary. They owe the instructors their full attention. Every Scout should wear his Class I uniform.

7:45 - 8:00	Check in
8:00 - 8:50	Scholar
9:00 - 10:20	Engineer
10:30 - 11:30	Geologist
11:30 - 12:00	Lunch
12:05 - 1:30	Readyman
1:40-2:40	Scientist
2:50 - 3:50	Citizen
4:00 - 5:00	Fitness

For further information please feel free to call me. Vicki Sargent – 452-3615

REGISTRATION

NAME	PACK	FEE	Sch	Eng	Geo	Rm	Sci	Cit	Fit
Eric Ballantync	370	<u> </u>							
Brian Carter	370								
Mark Luciene	370						l		
Cody Saggus	370		i						
Caleb Jaynes	360			<u> </u>					1
Drew Dills	360	Ĭ]		
Chris Cochram, Jr.	360								
James Bevilacqua	360								
Joseph Jacobs	322	į							
Dylan Smathers	322	1		-					
Morgan Wright	322	İ					Ī		
Nathan Mann	322		į				1	1	
Chad Allen	322	1					Ì		
Brian Youse	322	İ	1						
Aaron Padgett	322	Ì	 				ļ		
Matthew Long	322		ĺ						
Adam Kem	306		1				ļ		
Issac May	306		İ						
Eric Buuilla	306	<u> </u>	- 					i I	
Jake Medford	306								
Colton Jenkins	306							İ	
Jimmy Edwards	306		1					i	
Kent Davis	370			İ			1	İ	
Tyler Alfen	370			<u> </u>	ļ			ĺ	
Jesse Hinton	370			 					
Robert McDonald	322		1			<u> </u>		<u> </u>	
Craig Fenton	322						<u> </u>	1	
Bo Henson	322		- 				<u> </u>	 	
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Name:			Pack:
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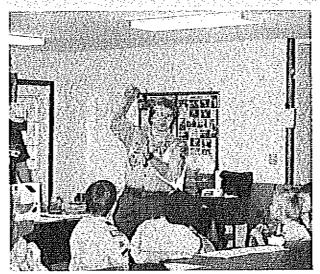
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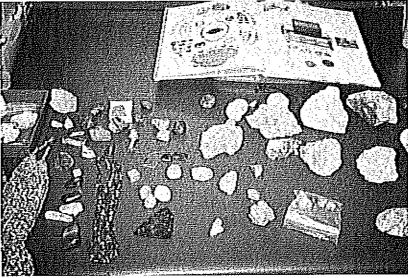
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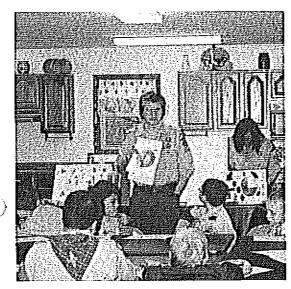


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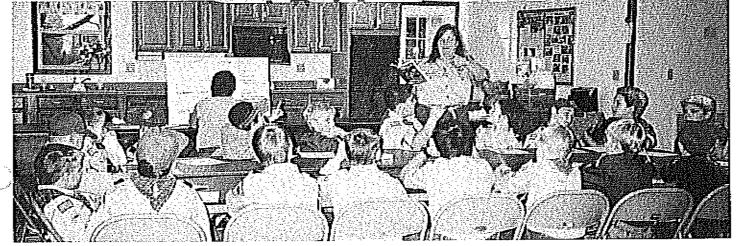


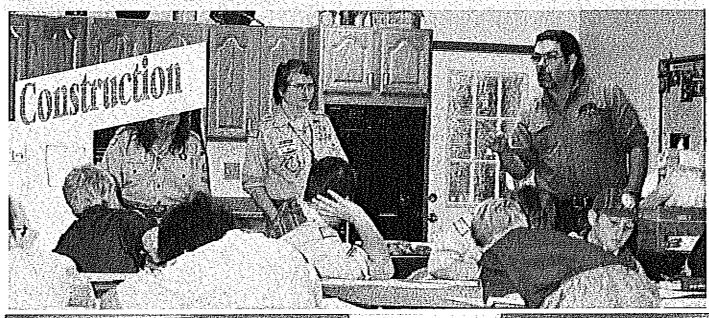




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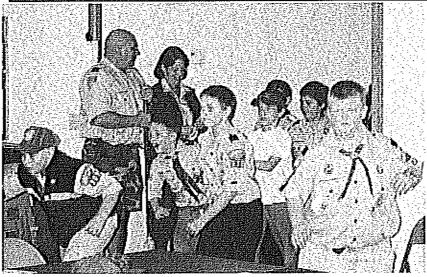




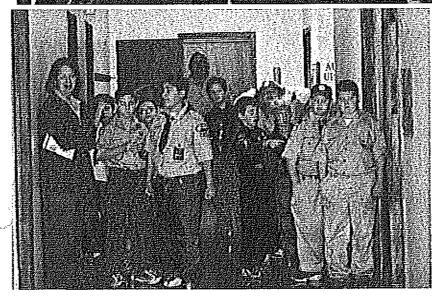


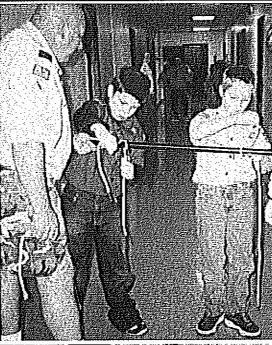


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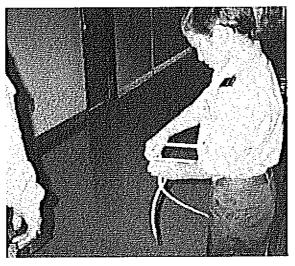




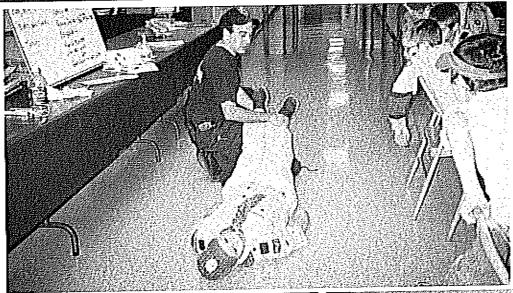








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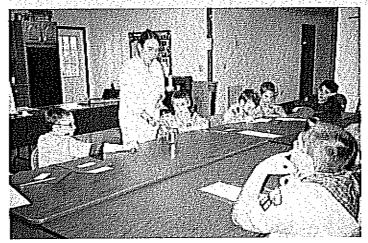












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