



Best Practices

Summertime Pack Activity



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Scouting's Organizing Principle #1

Scouting is a volunteer driven membership movement

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Movement

**A group of people joining together
for a common cause**



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Scouting's Organizing Principle #2

Partnership with Community Organizations

(Refer to Annual Charter Agreement)

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Call to Service

If you or someone else in your unit have unique skills in;

- Leadership
- Fundraising
- Training
- Event planning

and have an interest at another level beyond the unit, please let this presenter know or contact your local district executive.

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State of the Unit

Talk about how your unit is doing (2 minutes)

- **Is it growing**
- **Share some calendar highlights**
- **Is it financially sound**

What do you do best (5 minutes)

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Time to begin your module

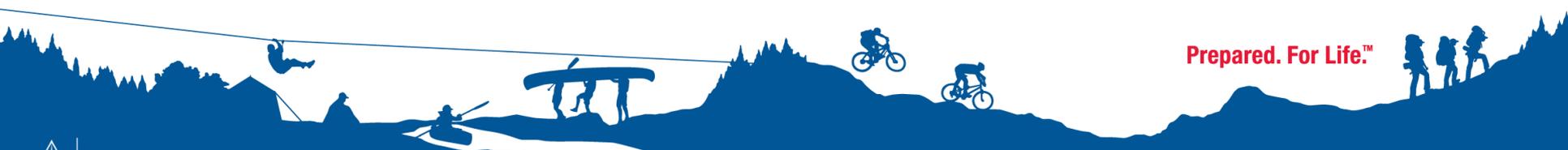


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Best Practices for Summertime Pack Activity



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How will this help my Pack?

- An active pack during the summer keeps kids more involved in Scouting
- It provides special experiences for your Scouting families you cannot do during the rest of the year
- Find out where to get some good ideas for activities
- Summer camp is the highlight of the Scouting year
- Helpful tips

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Outline

- **Summer fun starts with Summer Camp**
- **Summertime Pack Award**
- **Council Summertime Activities**
- **Tips for your own summertime experiences**
- **Resources to help you**

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Summer Camp

Camping takes you on exciting adventures into the natural world.

- **Learn to live with others in the out-of-doors**
- **Learn to be a good citizen of the outdoors**
- **Fun and it's good for your mind, body, and spirit**
- **Learn to rely on yourself—on your own skills and knowledge**

Cub Scout camping has day camps, resident camps, Webelos den overnight campouts, family camps, and pack overnights.

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Crossroads of America Council Day Camps

Cub Scout Day Camp is a week of fun activities and offers boys a variety of activities.

- **Make crafts**
- **Learn gun safety and shoot BB guns and bows and arrows**
- **Swim**
- **Boat**
- **Play games**
- **Learn about nature and be outside with their friends**
- **Be active**
- **Have fun**

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Summer Camp Options

Seven camps are offered each summer, including;

- **Camp Belzer, located on the north east side of Indianapolis**
- **Bear Creek Day Camp, located in Connersville**
- **Pathfinder Day Camp, held at Johnson County Park,**
- **Kikthawenund Day Camp held at Camp Kikthawenund in Frankton**
- **Red Wing Day Camp held at Camp Red Wing in Muncie**
- **Rotary Day Camp held at Camp Rotary in Crawfordsville**
- **Wildwood Day Camp held at Camp Wildwood in Terre Haute.**

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Webelos Adventure Camp

Camp Kikthawenund, located in Frankton, Indiana near Anderson, is the council's resident Webelos Scout camp, which caters to the adventurous minds of nine and ten year-old boys. This offers Webelos a four-day, three-night camping experience with many unique facilities, like Fort Miami and Tree Houses. Activities include, swimming, boating, crafts, nature study, shooting safety, air rifle and archery, knot tying, challenge area and many other activities.

Reservations are made by pack and begin the first business day of the year. Contact any Crossroads of America Council office for details on dates and cost for this year.

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National Summertime Pack Award

- A pack can earn the National Summertime Pack Award by doing three pack activities when school is out for the summer—one activity each in June, July, and August. Packs that qualify get a colorful streamer for their pack flag. Dens that have at least half of their members at the three summer pack events can earn a den ribbon. Pack members who take part in all three events are eligible for the National Summertime Pack Award pin, to wear on the right pocket flap of their uniform.
- Summer Camp counts for the monthly activities!
- If a pack is in a "year-round school" (or is part of a home-school association), the pack could earn the Summertime Pack Award by having a special pack activity during school breaks.

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Council Summertime Activities

- Every year the Crossroads of America Council Activities Committee works on special programming that your Scout families, dens or pack can take advantage of
- The council prepares special activities that make it easy for you to have a fun year round program
- Choose the ones you like and take part or plan and run your own

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Council Summertime Activities

- **Information is released in Early April and will be at your districts roundtable** (monthly leaders meeting that meets in your district)
- **Regular events include camp out at Victory Field** (in the outfield weather permitting), **Holiday World and Splashing Safari discounts and special events at Gen Con**
- **There will be more to choose from**

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Tips for your own summer event

- **Make them easy and fun, summers are busy and planning and communication are more difficult as families break for summer**
- **Promote opportunities before you break for summer**
- **Share a summer calendar with your families**
- **Use local resources**
 - Police programs
 - Parks

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Summertime Activity Ideas

- **Belt Loop Events** - Many great Pack Activities tie into the rank levels as well as **Belt Loops**. Boys can work on their Pins the second year but consider having popular events no more than once every two years to avoid burn-out. Make sure that you always go over the basics and safety rules for each activity. A Pack Belt Loop event may feature one activity or combine several activities:
 - **Cub Scout Basketball**: Pack Basketball Game
 - **Cub Scout Bicycling**: Pack Bike Ride or Bike Rodeo
 - **Cub Scout Fishing**: Pack Fishing Derby
 - **Cub Scout Flag Football**: Pack Flag Football Game
 - **Cub Scout Geology**: Pack Rock Hounds or Fossil Hunt
 - **Cub Scout Hiking**: Pack Hike

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Summertime Activity Ideas

- Cub Scout Hiking: Pack Hike
- Cub Scout Map and Compass: Pack Geocaching
- Cub Scout Physical Fitness: Pack Olympics
- Cub Scout Roller Skating: Pack Roller Skating Party
- Cub Scout Soccer: Pack Soccer Game
- Cub Scout Softball: Pack Softball Game
- Cub Scout Swimming: Pack Swim Party at a public pool
- Cub Scout Ultimate: Pack Frisbee Golf or Frisbee Football
- Cub Scout Volleyball: Pack Volleyball Game

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Summertime Activity Ideas

- **Back to School Cookout:** hold a cookout at a local park
- **Fire Department Tour:** could be tied in with the Emergency Preparedness Award
- **Historical landmark tour:**
- **Pack Conservation Scavenger Hunt:** Scouts could earn the Leave No Trace award
- **Sporting event:** Attend a college or Minor League Baseball game or other local sporting event
- **Museum Trip**
- **Pack Campout:** at least one leader needs to be BALOO trained

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Summertime Activity Ideas

- **Pack Picnic:** could encourage Scouts to bring squirt guns, hold competitions, etc.
- **Police Department Tour:** National Child Identification Program - Fingerprinting! - Crime Prevention Award
- Raingutter Regatta: consider it for fun only and let Scouts challenge each other instead of a formal race
- **Water Rockets:** stomp rockets
- **Zoo Trip:** go to the zoo or attend another local wildlife sanctuary

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Leadership Resources

- **Guide to Safe Scouting**
- **Cub Scout Leader Book**
- **Den and Pack Meeting Resource Guide**
- **Academics and Sports Program**
- **Boys' Life**
- **Scouting Magazine**

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Online Resources

- <http://www.crossroadsbsa.org/>
 - Crossroads of America Council Website
 - Links to District sites
 - Council & District Calendars
- <http://www.scouting.org/>
 - BSA National Website
 - Visit and explore often
- <http://www.usscouts.org/>
 - By Volunteers for Volunteers
 - Covers topic A-Z
- <http://www.meritbadge.com/>
 - Excellent advancement resource

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Who can Help?

- **First contact should *always* be your Unit Commissioner**
- **District Commissioner and staff**
- **District Executives**
- **Council Support Staff**
- **Other leaders in your unit**
- **Parents!!**
- **Community leaders and organizations**

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What does success look like.....

- **Have we taken the Journey to Excellence. Use this tool to measure how successful the Pack truly is.**
- **Are you keeping the boys that have registered into the next year?**
- **Are parents becoming engaged with the program and their own boys?**
- **Are you having fun too?**

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