







#### **Scouting's Organizing Principle #1**

# Scouting is a volunteer driven membership movement







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





#### **Scouting's Organizing Principle #2**

# Partnership with Community Organizations

(Refer to Annual Charter Agreement)





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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.





#### **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)









# Time to begin your module







# Blue and Gold Banquet Success







#### How will this help my Pack?

- A great Blue and Gold is a time to celebrate the successes of the pack
- It can be a more meaningful event for Scouts, families and leaders than a regular pack meeting
- Helpful tips

SCOUTS OF AMERICA®









- What is a Blue and Gold
- Essential elements of a Blue and Gold
  - Meal
  - Planning
  - Entertainment
- Arrow of Light Ceremony
- Fun Ideas
- Resources to help you







#### What is a Blue and Gold

- Most Cub Scouts celebrate Scouting Anniversary Week in February with a "birthday party" called the blue and gold banquet. In nearly all packs, the blue and gold banquet is the highlight of the year. It brings families together for an evening of fun and cheer. It's often the pack meeting for February.
- The purpose of the blue and gold banquet is to;
  - Celebrate the pack's anniversary
  - Thank pack leaders and other adults who have helped the pack
  - Inspire the leaders, Scouts, and parents
  - Engage former members and other Scouting or community leaders





#### What is a Blue and Gold

- The banquet can be like a regular pack meeting, with songs, skits, stunts, and awards. Or it can be something different and a little more special. Your pack may decide to bring in an entertainer such as a magician or a storyteller. Or you could have a video or slide show of what the pack did over the past year.
- A good banquet needs lots of planning. Most packs begin to plan at least two months ahead of time.





#### You can have a lunch or dinner, this can be;

- Pitch in
- Pack can buy the main dish, pitch in
- A fully catered event







- Decorations may be as elaborate or as simple as you wish. Attractive menu cards or dinner programs can be made, place cards, centerpieces, place mats, nut cups and favors are all suggestions of things which might be used. Cubs can take part in making decorations.
- The dinner program should include entertainment from within the pack, but outside entertainment is okay. Also don't forget the importance of recognizing advancement of the boys and leaders of the pack





This should be fun for all the Scouts from Tigers to Webelos. Any entertainments should not be too long or take away from the rest of the event.

Your pack does not need to have outside entertainment but some packs enjoy it.





The Arrow of Light Ceremony is the most important portion of the Blue and Gold but it does not have to be the most complex or lengthy portion of the event.

Most districts have a great OA ceremonial team of Boy Scouts that will come out and do a special ceremony for you Webelos that are crossing over into Boy Scouts. They can do a ceremony that is exciting for your boys crossing over will get other Cubs excited to do the ceremony in their future.





If your district does not have an OA group with their own ceremony their are multiple Scouting websites dedicated to just the Blue and Gold and Arrow of Light Ceremony. A simple Google search will yield hundreds. Putting a unique touch on the event is always a way to make it all the more memorial for the boys.

You should contact local troops to be part the crossover ceremony since they will be accepting many of your boys into their troop.





The most memorable banquet I've attended was when we invited former Cub Scouts who had gone on to become Eagle Scouts. One Eagle Scout was asked to represent each decade since the 1950s, when our pack was chartered. The Eagles were asked to speak briefly about what Scouting has meant to them. Their responses were different, but, from the lawyer to the high school student, they all made us proud of the organization we were representing.





- We spice up our blue and gold banquet with a computerized slide show of the pack's activities. We borrow equipment to project the presentation onto a large movie screen in the school cafeteria where we hold the banquet.
- The keys to our success are 1) we use good photos, with cropping that emphasizes the action, 2) we select music to complement the action, and 3) we try to make sure everyone in the pack is included and recognized.
- We end the slide show on an upbeat note, then follow through with our Friends of Scouting (FOS) presentation. This year, we almost tripled our donation total and became the highest FOS donor unit in our district.





 That is, until we started having an ice cream social instead of a full-course dinner for the blue and gold banquet. The pack provides the ice cream, and the dens are assigned to bring the toppings. Now there are miles of smiles for blue and gold banquets because each boy gets his favorite treat





- An Arrow of Light ceremony with Webelos Scouts graduating into Boy Scouting at the blue and gold banquet is indeed special for boys and parents. The Cub Scout Leader How-To Book describes several great ideas for Arrow of Light ceremonies.
- We cut an Arrow of Light from a cardboard box and paint the box blue. We make a yellow paper background for the box, put a camping lantern inside it, and turn out the lights. There are always plenty of "Oooohs" and "Ahhhhs."





#### **Important Things to Remember**

- Be sure that the boys, leaders, and parents know that the banquet is Cub Scouting's birthday celebration.
- Begin planning at least three months ahead.
- KISMIF Keep it Simple, Make it Fun
- Involve leaders and parents. Sharing responsibilities makes it easier and fun for everyone.
- Let the boys help plan and make the decorations, but keep the cutting and pasting to a minimum. Do let them help make each item. (Then watch their eyes glow with pride the night of the banquet.)





#### **Leadership Resources**

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







#### **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







- 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





#### What does success look like.....

- Do we have memorable Blue and Gold's?
- Do the kids walk away feeling good about what they have done?
- 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?

