



BLUE & GOLD CELEBRATION

By Phil Pepin & Rich Belliveau

Pow Wow '99"

Blue & Gold Banquet

What is a Blue & Gold Banquet?

It celebrates the birthday of Scouting in the U.S.A. It is an annual event usually held in February & shared by all pack families for a dinner & evening or day of FUN.

Scouting originated in England when Sir Baden-Powell wrote a book called "Aide to Scouting". The book was originally written for solders, but it caught the fancy of many British boys who began practicing what it taught. Sir Baden-Powell then published another book in 1908 that was an illustrated handbook of activities called "Scouting for Boys", & Scouting soon spread around the world.

In February of 1910 William D. Boyce & Daniel Beard founded the Boy Scouts in the United States. Cub Scouting was organized 20 years later in 1930 to provide a program for young boys who were not old enough to join Boy Scouts.

Who Plans it & When?

- 1) A Banquet Committee:
 - a) Involve as many parents as possible – one person should not have to do all the work.
 - b) Appoint – Setup committee, greeters, clean up crew, servers, entertainment, & any other position that will make it work.
 - c) Organization is the key word. Plan – check & then re-check to make sure everyone knows what to do & all details are taken care of.
- 2) The Blue & Gold banquet usually is planned at lease two months before. It usually takes the place of the regular February pack meeting.

Who is invited?

First of all remember that Scouting is a family affair so be sure that each Cub knows that his entire family is welcome. This includes the grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, & anyone else who would like to come & see Scouting in action.

Special guest could include the head of your Scouting institution, school principle, Scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop, District Commissioner, Unit Commissioner, Mayor, & anyone else in your community who is interested in Scouting.

Where will you have your Banquet?

Since this is a dinner it is desirable to have it someplace where kitchen facilities are available. (School cafeteria, Church dining area, etc.) You will have a larger than normal turnout so be sure the place you pick can accommodate the group.

Steps to Planning a Blue & Gold Banquet

- I. Select date, time, & place.
 - A. In selecting the place consider the following:
 1. Adequate space for seating & displays.
 2. Availability of parking space, restrooms, coat racks.
 3. Program needs, (i.e. Microphone, stage, etc.)
 4. Convenience for food preparation &/or serving.
 5. Reserve meeting place well in advance.

- II. Dinner Committee
 - a. Select meal plan – catered or pot luck.
 - b. Determine serving needs – kitchen & utensils.
 - c. Select menu & estimate cost.
 - d. Assign serving & clean up jobs.

- III. Program
 - a. Entertainment.
 - b. Props for skits & ceremonies.
 - c. Recognition of boys & leaders.
 - d. Make assignments for various parts of the program.
 1. Opening
 2. Invocation.
 3. Welcome & Introduction of Guests.
 4. Ceremonies.
 5. Recognition.
 6. Entertainment- skit, songs, etc
 7. Closing.

- IV. Decorations
 - a. Room Decorations.
 - b. Table décor.
 - c. Displays.

- V. Publicity
 - a. Inform all pack families of date, time, place, & cost.
 - b. Invitations – send invitations to special guests.

Things to do at Blue & Gold Dinner.

1. Pre-activity / Pre-opening – This is a definite part of the program, not just for early arrivals. Make it interesting & active. It's the way to get people to the meeting on time, & it sets the tone.
2. Opening – It sets the tone of the whole meeting & can add dignity & importance.
3. Displays – This will consist of table decoration, craft projects, (that the scouts have worked on), pictures, den awards, etc.
4. Skits – Usually skits are based on a monthly theme. A Webelos den skit might be based on the monthly activity badge area. This can be a pantomime, a sketch, or a short play. The main purpose of skits is fun for the boys & the audience.
5. Games – They help develop skills, body control, self-confidence, patience, & consideration for others. The choice of the games is determined by the number of players, & space available. Boys enjoy seeing their families & their leaders involved. Choose the game that best fits the situation, & most of all make it Fun.
6. Ceremonies – One of the most important reasons for ceremonies is to provide meaningful & memorable highlights in a boy's Cub Scout experience. They reinforce the purpose & meaning of the Cub Scout program for both boys & adults.
7. Songs – They add fellowship & feeling of togetherness. You don't need to be an expert singer or conductor. All that is necessary is to be able to start a song on the right pitch & keep time. Be enthusiastic, since enthusiasm is contagious & will spread to others.

Reference /Resources:

How to Book, Cub Scout Leaders Book, Roundtables, Past, Present, & Future Pow Wow Books, Fellow Leaders, Den & Pack Ceremonies, Cub Scout & Webelos Scout Program Helps, Internet, Cub Scout songbooks, & the list goes on?

Opening Ceremony:

“The Story of the Blue & Gold”

Cub Scout 1: Back in the good old days, waving school colors gave people a feeling of school pride & loyalty. Today, the blue & gold of Cub Scouting helps build this spirit among Cub Scouts. The Bobcat badge is the foundation, or beginning, of all Cub Scout ranks. This foundation builds a common spirit among these young men.

Cub Scout 2: The blue reminds us of the sky above. It stands for truth, spirituality, & steadfast loyalty.

Cub Scout 3: Truth means we must always be honest.

Cub Scout 4: Spirituality means a belief & faith in God.

Cub Scout 5: Steadfast loyalty means being faithful & loyal to God, country, & fellow humans.

Cub Scout 6: The Gold Stands for the warm sunlight.

Cub Scout 7: Gold also stands for good cheer & happiness. We always feel better when the sun is shining & so will those to whom we give good will.

Cub Scout 8: As we wear our Cub Scout uniforms, may the meaning of the blue & gold colors make us remember our Cub Scout ideals, the Cub Scout Promise, & the Law of the Pack. Please join us in repeating the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ice Breaker:

How much do you know about Cub Scouting?

1. Cub Scouting is how old _____?
2. Who is the founder of Scouting _____?
3. There are _____ Webelos Activity Badges that can be earned.
4. What is the Cub Scout motto? _____.
5. Scouting is _____ years old this month.
6. We belong to Pack # _____.
7. Our pack is part of _____ District in Connecticut Rivers Council.
8. _____ is the first rank in Cub Scouting?
9. My Cub Master is _____.
10. We belong to Den # _____.
11. What does K I S M I F stand for? _____.
12. The _____ is the highest award in Cub Scouts.
13. Who is CRC our Scout Executive? _____.
14. What is the TIGER CUB PROMISE? _____.
15. When is Scout Sunday? _____.

Opening Ceremony:

“Star Spangled Banner”

Speaker 1: Our country’s first official flag had 13 stars & 13 stripes, one star & one stripe for each of the first 13 states. In 1795 two more states joined the union & a new flag was made having 15 stars & 15 stripes. It was this new flag, which Francis Scott Key called the “Star Spangled Banner” that was flying over Fort McHenry when the British bombarded the fort during the War of 1812.

Speaker 2: It was during the latter part of August 1814, that the British Army captured a Dr. William Beans. Francis Scott Key, a young Baltimore lawyer, decided to go to General Ross of the British army to plead for the release of his friend.

Speaker 3: Going to Chesapeake Bay where the British fleet was massed, Key was kindly received by the British. General Ross consented to release Dr. Beans, but because the British were planning an attack on Fort McHenry, held the American party on the ship.

Speaker 4: The British fleet poured a blazing shower of shells onto the fort all through the night of September 13, 1814. Standing at the rail of the British battleship during the bombardment, Key could see from time to time, by the glare from the rockets, that the American Flag still flew over the Fort.

Speaker 5: It was at that moment of “the dawn’s early light” with the Flag still waving triumphantly over the fort, that Francis Scott Key was inspired to write the poem that became our national anthem.

Let us now welcome our “Star Spangled Banner”. Ladies & gentlemen, please stand for the flag of the United States of America.

Opening Ceremony:

What It Means to Be an American

Cub Scout One: You can say anything you want to say.
Some things cost a lot of money, but speech is free.

All: That's what it means to be an American.

Cub Scout Two: You can write anything you want & dare
to disagree. You can go to sleep at night without being afraid.

All: That's what it means to be an American.

Cub Scout Three: You can't be sentence to go to prison
without a fair trial. You can choose your own place of
worship.

All: That's what it means to be an American.

Cub Scout Four: You can dream any dream & reach for a
star. We live in the land of liberty.

All: That's what it means to be an American.

(The Cub Scouts then lead the Pledge of Allegiance. The song leader leads "America the Beautiful " from the Cub Scout Songbook.)

Opening Ceremony:

Flag & Candle Ceremony

1st. **Scout** – Practically from the beginning of time, man has used symbols to express hope, ideals, & love of his nation. Our flag represents the ideals & science, commerce & agriculture. It symbolizes the sacrifices made by men & women for the future of America. It stands for your home & everything & everyone you hold dear.

2nd. **Scout** – I light the red candle which represents the red of our flag. It stands for hardiness & valor symbolizes the lifeblood of brave men & women.

3rd. **Scout** - I light the white candle, which is the symbol of purity & innocence & it symbolizes the white of our flag.

4th. **Scout** – I light the blue candle, which is the symbol of perseverance & justice & symbolizes the eternal blue of the heavens.

5th. **Scout** – The stars in our flag represent the states. They indicate that the heights of achievement for our nation are limitless as the heavens above.

6th. **Scout** – Please everyone stand & repeat the Pledge with me.

“Do Your Best”

Cub Scout 1: Do your best in everything.

Cub Scout 2: Always be friendly, too.

Cub Scout 3: Give a happy smile always.

Cub Scout 4: Be prepared in all you do.

Cub Scout 5: Be honest & sincere.

Cub Scout 6: Be loyal & be true.

Cub Scout 7: Count your blessings every day.

Cub Scout 8: For all God's done for you.

Closing Ceremony:

At Day's End

Is anybody happier because you passed his way?

Does anyone remember that you spoke to him today?

The day is almost over, and its toiling time is through;

Is there anyone to utter now a kindly word of you?

Can you say tonight, in parting with the day that's slipping fast,

That you helped a single brother of the many that you passed?

Is a single heart rejoicing over what you did or said;

Does the man whose hopes were fading, now with courage look ahead?

Did you waste the day, or lose it? Was it well or sorely spent?

Did you leave a trail of kindness, or a scar of discontent?

As you close your eyes in slumber, do you think that God will say,

“You have earned one more tomorrow by the work you did today?”

-John Hall

Song:

This Land Is Your Land

Refrain: This land is your land – This land is my land –
From California - to the New York Island,
From the redwood forest – to the Gulf Stream waters,
This land was made for you and me.

As I went walking that ribbon of highway
I saw above me that endless skyway,
I saw below me that golden valley,
This land was made for you and me.

Refrain

I roamed and rambled, and I followed my footsteps,
To the sparkling sands of her diamond deserts,
And all around me a voice was sounding,
This land was made for you and me.

Refrain

When the sun came shining, then I was strolling,
And the wheat fields waving, and the dust clouds rolling,
A voice was chanting as the fog was lifting,
This land was made for you and me.

Refrain

Skit:

THE RELUCTANT KNIGHT AND THE MAGIC HERB (A Pantomime Skit)

CHARACTERS:

KNIGHTS at least two in appropriate costume
SIR QUAKE-A-LOT a seedy-looking knight with bent sword
MESSENGER pageboy type
MAGICIAN Merlin-type with white hair, beard and flowing robe
LADY GWENDOLYN long robe, comical headdress with veil

SETTING:

Courtyard outside medieval castle, Courtyard is center left of stage, with woods indicated at right front. Road to Black Knight's castle is right rear.

NARRATOR:

stands to one side of stage. As he narrates, the characters enter, pantomime and exit.

NARRATOR:

In days of yore, so we've been told
Maids were fair and warriors bold.
And when two Knights in battle sent
They'd laugh and soon be friends again

(Knights on horseback enter
From opposite sides; battle,
knock each other down, laugh
get up & slap each other on
The backs.)

But there was one unknighly Knight
With rusty sword, who wouldn't fight
He'd shiver and he'd shake a lot:
So he was called Sir Quake-A-Lot
And though he had no hope to win,
He loved the Lady Gwendolyn.

(Enter Sir Quake-A-Lot. Others
try to battle him. He shakes &
tries to protect himself & faints.
Gwendolyn enters, walks across
and exits. All knights sigh. Quake
Revives, sighs the most.)

One day a messenger arrived,
Who was more dead than alive.
"The Lady Gwendolyn" he gasped,
"Has fallen into the Black Knight's grasp.
Which of you knights will be the braver?
Who will go and try to save her?"

(Messenger staggers on stage.
Knights rush to help. He
pantomimes message; when he
Asks who will go, they point to
Each other. Quake stands and
watches.)

And then a voice with a slight quaver
Said "I will be the one to save her"
The other knights sigh in relief-
Then stare at Quake with disbelief.
"His brain has kinks, methinks" one said
"This lad hath holeth in his head."

(Sir Quake-a-lot flourishes a
sword; Pantomimes saving her.
Other knights point at him, laugh,
Slap their knees in laughter.
Quake exits to the woods.)

As Quake-a-lot approached the wood,
He passed where a magician stood.
He asked the magician to make him brave.
The magician said "Tis this herb you crave;

(Quake gallops to the woods,
Where magician enters, They
Pantomime & magician points
to a green bush. Quake picks &

Eat once a week forever more
Thou wilt be a coward nevermore.”

As quick, he did partake a lot,
A change came over Quake-a-lot.
His biceps swelled, he beat his chest,
His crooked sword, he neatly pressed.
Into the wood to save his Gwen,
And soon was heard a knightly din.

Back at Court, the knights mourned Quake
When battle sounds the ground did shake.
But suddenly to their surprise,
Two figures came before their eyes.
The lovely Gwen on Quake's right arm,
And Quake, the warrior, safe from harm.

The Knights ran forth and did proclaim
That Quake should have a brand new name.
Sir Sag-no-More's his brand new start;
Lady Gwen gave him her heart.
Then all in merriment did feast and laugh,
And all lived happily ever after.

If you'd adore to Sag-no-More,
We'll warn you at the finish;
Don't wish for a magician
Just always eat your spinach.

eats from the bush.)

(Quake becomes strong man,
Beats on chest, bends sword
straight, rushes off stage where
Mighty sounds of battle are
heard.)

(Battle sounds off stage. Knights
Listen, shake heads sadly, weep &
blow noses into lacy
handkerchiefs. Enter Gwen &
Quake in Armor with bright
sword.)

(Knights run to Quake, present him
a sign saying "Sag-no-More."
Gwen hands him a paper heart. All sit
on floor and pantomime a feast,
joined by magician.)