

The Newspaper Game

Purpose

- Allows pack leadership to observe new parents and how they interact
- Provides pack leadership with a prospect list for new leadership needed
- Fun icebreaker for parents and boys attending the School Night

Materials

- Generous supply of newspaper
- Several rolls of masking tape

Starting the game

- Divide new Cubs and adults into den sized groups of 6-8 boys. Try to keep grade level boys together, but it's okay to mix based on where they are seated.
- Explain this game requires the participation of everyone, parents and boys.
- Inform them they will be using newspaper and masking tape to create a costume of a superhero, pirate, astronaut, Indian, football player or whatever they decide upon in their small groups.
- Have each small group select one new Cub who will display their costume.
- Explain each small group needs to appoint a spokesperson who will describe their costume. Indicate the explanation is important and will help the judges decide the overall winner.
- Tell them they have 5 minutes to complete their task and yell GO!

Observation

- While the groups are making their costumes, pack leadership should mingle and pay close attention to the activities. You should only observe and never participate or help.
- Look for behavior displayed by new parents consistent with that of a prospective leader.
- Observe and make notes on such traits as;
 - Delegation skills
 - Ability to get others involved
 - Creativity
 - Motivation of others
 - Positive attitude
 - Having fun
- Observe adults who distance themselves from the action or assume a negative posture. Consider them for other helper positions but not direct contact leadership (i.e. DL, DA, CM, CA).
- Observe the spokespersons for each group as they present their costume.
- Find out the names of those who display traits sought after and plant a seed with them by saying "You look like you were really having a great time with the boys during the game!"

Finishing the game

- After about 4 minutes announce there are 3 minutes left (this is Cub Scout time).
- After a couple more announce 2 minutes left.
- 1 or 2 minutes later tell the groups to put the finishing touches on and prepare for judging.
- Start with the youngest group, ask the spokesperson and Cub to come up and describe their creation.
- Enthusiastically lead the crowd in applause after each presentation.
- Have judges discuss amongst themselves for 1-2 minutes after all the presentations and decide all of the costumes were so good they are unable to pick a single winner, therefore everyone wins!
- Have pack leadership lead in a big round of applause or cheer for all groups and let them know in Cub Scouting, everyone is a winner!
- Tell the Cub Scouts who were wearing the costumes they can wear them home if they like.
- Ask each group to clean up their area.

Follow-up

- After the School Night meeting has concluded and the boys and parents have left, discuss your notes and names of prospective leaders you identified during the game.
- Hold your Parents Orientation meeting one week after this School Night and actively recruit the prospective adults using the Parent Orientation agenda