

Greater St. Louis Area Council – Boy Scouts of America
Pow Wow 2007
Scrounging – Class Outline

- 1) Introduction
 - a) Name, Position, Background
 - i) Kevin Dobbins, Cubmaster Pack 547 in Hillsboro.
(1) Contact at cm547@earthlink.net or 314-603-3487 (Cell)
- 2) What is Scrounging?
 - a) The act of acquiring materials for free or at a reduced price.
 - i) Dumpster Diving!
 - b) Finding a use for items that would normally be trashed. i.e. Recycling.
 - c) Purpose of Class: A Guide, or “How To Scrounge”. We will also present several ideas using craft & recycled materials.
- 3) Why Scrounge?
 - a) Scouter Motto-
 - i) If you are paid to do Scouting, you are called a Professional;
 - ii) If you are not paid to do Scouting, you are called a Volunteer;
 - iii) If you pay to do Scouting, then you are called a Scouter.
 - b) Nobody has unlimited time and money:
 - c) Saves Time
 - i) How many of you have scrounged the stuff you need for a den meeting on the day of a den meeting? How much time did you spend running around the house, or to the store, to get the supplies?
 - ii) If you have a list of supplies, can scrounge for items for the entire Scouting year at the same time.
 - iii) With a list, you can recruit others to help with scrounging.
 - d) Saves Money
 - i) If you have to buy supplies at the last minute, you’re more willing to pay top dollar for the items.
 - ii) If you find a lot of supplies at the same place, you can negotiate a bulk purchase, often at a much better price than buying piecemeal.
 - iii) If others are helping with scrounging, often they will donate the supplies they have found.
 - e) Better Cub Scout Program
 - i) Reduce Stress
 - (1) If you already have the items you need for your program, it is more enjoyable for you and the Scouts.
 - ii) The more supplies you have access to, the more options you have for your program.
- 4) First 3 Steps Before Starting to Scrounge - Plan, Plan, Plan
 - a) Why Plan?

- i) If you don't know what you need, how do you know what to scrounge? If you scrounge something without a plan, you're just buying junk.
 - (1) Don't kid yourself. "I'll buy this now, and find a use for it later." It almost never works out that way.
 - (2) However, some items can be used in a large number of activities.
Examples: Rope or string, posterboard or paper, glue or tape, scissors, etc.
- b) How do I Plan?
 - i) Scrounging for Ideas / Resources
 - (1) Cub Scout <Rank> Handbook
 - (2) Program Helps
 - (3) Cub Scout How-To Book
 - (4) Cub Scout Fun Book
 - (5) Cub Scout Academics & Sports Program Book
 - (6) Other Craft/Activity Books
 - (a) Does NOT have to be a Boy Scout book
 - (7) Pow-Wow Book(s)
 - (8) University of Scouting
 - (9) Boy's Life, and Scouting magazines
 - (10) Home / Craft Magazines, Parenting Magazines
 - (a) "Pack of Fun" Magazine – Ideas for crafts from 'scrap' materials
 - (11) Roundtables
 - (12) People
 - (a) #1 People Source for Ideas: Your Cub Scouts
 - (b) Cub Scout Parents
 - (c) Other Den Leaders in your Rank
 - (i) Look outside your pack while at Scouting events
 - (d) Den Leaders in the next Rank
 - (i) They went through the program last year
 - (ii) Can tell you what worked, and, more importantly, what didn't work.
 - (e) Other Scout Leaders, "Retired" Scout Leaders
 - (f) Grandparents
 - (g) Teachers – Especially Primary / Elementary School Teachers
 - (h) Find the "Crafts" person in your pack
 - (13) Internet
 - (a) Wealth of sites for Scouting, Crafts, Games, Activities, etc.
 - (b) Crayola.com, Hersheys.com
 - (14) Hobby Stores
 - (a) Michaels, Frank's, Hobby Lobby, Checkered Flag, Schaefer's
 - ii) Before the beginning of the Scouting year, usually in the Spring before your Scouts graduate to the next rank, get a copy of the handbook for the next rank.
 - iii) Sit down with some paper, flip through the handbook slowly, and make two lists:
 - (1) List #1: Activities you would like to do, and a general idea of when you plan to do them.
 - (2) List #2: Supplies you need for each activity.
 - (a) Description of each item – Be specific.

- (i) Example: Rope. How thick? What material? What color? How long? In what condition? (Junk or used for craft?)
 - (ii) Example: Wood. What dimensions? What type of wood?
 - (iii) Try to use supplies that would typically be trashed. Example: Tin cans, milk cartons, paper towel / toilet paper tubes, etc.
 - (iv) What type of preparation is needed before the item can be used in the activity? Rope whipped and cut, wood pre-cut and sanded, etc.
 - (b) How much is needed?
 - (i) Linear feet, square foot / yards, number of items.
 - (ii) Multiply by number of Scouts in your den, plus 1 or 2 for you to complete ahead of time as an example, plus 1 or 2 extra items for mistakes and visiting boys / siblings.
 - (c) What is the most I'm willing to pay for this?
 - (i) Helps you determine a good vs. bad deal
 - (ii) Helps your recruits know how much you're willing to pay.
 - (iii) Go to the store and find out how much the item costs in retail.
 - (d) What activity or elective is this for?
 - (i) You don't want to purchase the item, and then not remember why.
 - 1. If you do have extra craft items, and don't know what to do with them, do a Google search on the Internet. Enter a description of the craft item and then the word "craft", and see what comes up.
 - (ii) When scrounging, helps you decide if the item will be appropriate for the activity.
 - (iii) Helps you keep track of when items will be needed by.
 - iv) Review additional materials for ideas, and see where you can plug them into your program. Update the Activity and Supplies Lists as needed.
 - v) Take List #2 (Supplies), and consolidate.
 - (1) Group items together, and combine identical items.
 - (a) Group ideas: Hardware, cloth and sewing items, office supplies, etc.
 - (2) This will make your list shorter, more organized, and easier to use.
 - (a) Saves time when scrounging for the same item for multiple activities.
 - (b) Can help you when scrounging for items in bulk quantities.
 - (3) Put your contact information on the list.
 - (4) Put the print date on the list, so when you send out an update, people know which one is the most current.
 - vi) Periodically through the year, review both lists, to see if there are any supplies that you still don't have for an upcoming activity.
 - (1) May have to go purchase them at retail.
 - c) You now have an organized list of supplies, and are ready for next step.
 - i) This planning process should take no more than 2 hours to complete.
- 5) What and Where to Scrounge?
- a) Garage Sales, Estate Sales, and Flea Markets
 - b) Recycling Centers
 - c) eBay / Internet
 - i) Good mainly for harder to find / specialty items.

- ii) Shipping costs can quickly drive up the cost of the item
- d) Retail Stores like Wal-Mart, K-Mart, Target, Sam's Club
 - i) Endcap deals. The shelves at the end of many aisles are where sale items are located. Look at the endcaps around the outside edge of the store, not along the main aisles.
 - ii) Clearance aisle
 - iii) End of season sales.
 - (1) Example: Stock up on next year's Halloween party supplies by purchasing them after Halloween this year. Often 75% - 90% discount.
 - (2) It would not be a good idea to do this for food / candy items.
 - iv) Don't forget to bring a copy of the Tax I.D. letter for your pack.
- e) Deep discount stores like Dollar General, Deal\$, Dollar Tree
 - i) Most items are lacking in quality, but they are inexpensive, and may work for your activity.
- f) Craft stores like Michaels, Frank's, Hobby Lobby, Checkered Flag
 - i) Can find any item you need, get ideas from staff, but you'll pay a premium.
- g) Oriental Trading Company
 - i) Not exactly a scrounging location, but a great place to find bulk stuff really cheap. OTC produces several different catalogs, so be sure to get on all their mailing lists. OTC produces a "crafts only" catalog, where you can get a lot of ideas for crafts.
 - ii) OTC also has an on-line store with on-line specials. Prices will often be different between catalogs and on-line store.
- h) S & S Worldwide
 - i) Thrift Stores / Goodwill
- j) Freecycle.com – Join local Yahoo! Group to give/get free stuff
- k) Craigslist.com
- l) Businesses – Leave copy of supplies list with business / office manager
 - i) Works better in small towns, more willing to support the local Scout pack.
 - ii) Factory overstocks
- m) Leftovers, etc. www.leftoversetc.com. 1759 Scherer Parkway, St. Charles, MO 636-946-9779
 - i) Monday - Thursday 1:00 pm – 7:00 pm, Saturday 9:00 am – 3:00 pm
 - ii) Includes:
 - (1) Discovery Zone Library (with free copier!)
 - (2) Trash to Art Museum
 - (3) Student Art Gallery
 - (4) Idea Zone
 - (5) Book Exchange
 - (6) They offer Field Trips
 - iii) Prices:
 - (1) \$4 for Medium Paper Bag, \$7 for Large Paper Bag, \$10 for Large Paper Bag filled with multiple units of one item.
 - (a) Note: Each bag is weighed when it is sold, to track how many pounds of trash are being recycled, and not sent to landfills.
 - iv) Minding Our Badges – Scout-based activities

- 6) How to Scrounge at Garage Sales?
 - a) When you find something on your supplies list:
 - i) Explain to the seller you are scrounging for items for Cub Scouts.
 - ii) Explain what activity or craft you will be using the item for.
 - (1) Show them your supplies list.
 - (2) Let people see that you are organized and know what you are looking for.
 - iii) Ask for a reduced price. Many times, people will just donate the item.
 - iv) Say “Thank You”, especially if you don’t get a reduced price, or purchase the item. Remember, you represent the entire Scouting program to this seller.
 - b) Ask seller if they have any of the other items on your supplies list.
 - i) Point out items within the same group, (i.e. hardware items).
 - ii) The more items you get from a single location, the better you can negotiate a bulk price.
 - (1) ... and the less items you have to look for elsewhere!
 - c) Send a “Thank You” card.

- 7) Who to Scrounge from?
 - a) Mostly covered in “What and Where to Scrounge”
 - b) Recruit Help in Scrounging
 - i) Cub Scouts
 - (1) Around the House
 - (a) Make it a game (Scavenger Hunt!), so the Scouts will have fun!
 - (b) Emphasize the importance of recycling.
 - ii) Parents
 - (1) Work – Many parents can scrounge items from work. Be sure to get the items quickly, even if the activity is several months away, since people change / move jobs often. Use the Family Survey forms!
 - (2) Hobbies – Woodworking, Crafts.
 - (3) Network with relatives, friends, and neighbors
 - iii) Grandparents
 - (1) Usually retired with time to shop garage sales.
 - (2) Usually not an active part of grandson’s Scouting program. This will help them get involved, and play a very important role.
 - (3) Give them the supplies list, and run through the points of “How to Scrounge” from above.
 - iv) Other Leaders and their parents
 - (1) Make a copy of your Supplies list to hand out to all families at a pack meeting.
 - c) How to recruit:
 - i) ASK!
 - ii) Have your supply list organized and easy to use.
 - iii) Explain that you are on a tight budget, and to please buy only items on the list, and for no more than the cost listed.
 - (1) Don’t scare them so they’re afraid to help out.
 - iv) Keep in touch. Let them know what items have been purchased, and should be crossed off. This will prevent double purchasing of items.

- (1) Optionally provide a way for the recruit to contact you, in case they have a question about an item they've found, or find a "mother lode" of supplies.
 - v) Be courteous – Always say "Please" and "Thank You". Even if the item they found is not what you were expecting.
 - vi) Let them know you expect to pay them back for the items they purchase. If they refuse the money, that is fine.
 - vii) If they start buying stuff you don't need, politely tell them that you now have everything you need, and thank them for their help, and you will get back to them later when you need more stuff.
 - viii) If you have a recruit is going above and beyond, recognize them at a pack meeting and give them a "Scrounging" award.
 - d) Master Scrounger of the Pack
 - i) Individual who is the "Garage Sale Maniac" of the pack.
 - ii) Can consolidate lists from multiple dens and shop for everyone.
 - iii) Better chances to get bulk deals.
 - iv) Keeps a tote of supplies for use by den leaders
 - (1) Separate tote for each rank, with supplies for rank activities
 - v) Any extra supplies left over after activity can go back to one location for use by other dens, or for next year's activities.
- 8) When to Scrounge?
- a) Always!
 - b) Know when the garage sale weekdays are in your area.
 - c) Know where and when the flea markets are open.
 - d) Keep your list with you at all times.
- 9) Other items to Scrounge
- a) Scout Uniforms
 - i) Start a "Uniform Closet" for your pack.
 - ii) Helps during Scout recruitment, to reduce cost of joining Cub Scouts.
 - iii) Take patches (especially pack numbers you can't use) to Roundtable to trade with other leaders.
 - iv) The Scout Shop has a "Factory-Second Uniform" form you can fill out, to purchase uniforms at a reduced cost (\$10 Cub Shirts and Pants, \$12 Leader Shirts and Pants, \$4 Handbooks).
 - (1) Very limited supply of uniforms, need DE approval.
 - b) Pack / Den Equipment
 - i) Speaker System / Karaoke machine / Computers / Printers
 - ii) Check pawn shops for deals on larger items.
 - c) Books
 - i) eBay
 - ii) Used bookstores (Leftovers, Etc has a used bookstore)
 - iii) www.abebooks.com