



Bay-Lakes Council

Lakeshore District Boy Scout
Advancement Newsletter



August 2010

If you don't aim for perfection, there is no chance of achieving excellence.

The Lakeshore District Advancement and Recognition Committee publishes this Newsletter 12 times each year to Scoutmasters, Unit Advancement Committee Members and District Staff to provide current advancement information. This Newsletter is distributed by e-mail. Please notify us at rjump001@wi.rr.com if your e-mail address changes or you have questions, comments or suggestions, or you have someone you would like to be added to the mailing.

For Advancement Information go to the Advancement page on the Lakeshore District Website:

<http://lakeshoredistrict.org/>

How Eating together Builds Pride, Leadership; Meal Planning

Last month we included an article about eating together and the benefits. This month I would like to expand on menu planning and resources.

Planning a nutritious meal is important. As a Scoutmaster I would not permit hotdogs on a campout, I wanted the Scouts to think beyond hot dogs and develop cooking skills.

Each patrol should prepare its' own menus (with oversight from the leaders), purchase food supplies and cook the meals when camping. A common menu may be used by each patrol as they learn, but as they become more experienced each patrol could plan their own. Part of the planning is a schedule of who does what for each meal. Scouts should take turns being cooks, cleanup, water suppliers and fire builders for each meal. One Scout should not have the same job all week or weekend, even if he is better at cooking than the others, or is the new Scout who does nothing but wash dishes. How will the others learn.

Meal planning resources are available in the following BSA's booklets, Cooking Merit Badge pamphlet, "Fieldbook", and "Camp Cookery for Small Groups." These books are available from the Scout Service Centers in Appleton and Green Bay.

There are a number of books available for planning meals using dutch ovens, open fires, reflector ovens, and camp stoves. Over the years I have purchased the following books that I have found helpful in planning healthy meals for troop campouts and canoe trips to the BWCA:

"The Backcountry Kitchen", by Teresa Marone, published by Northern Trails Press, Minneapolis, MN.

"The Well-Fed Backpacker", by June Fleming, published by Random House, New York.

"The Hungary Hiker's Book of Good Cooking", by Gretchen McHugh, published by Alfred A. Knopf, New York.

"Dutch Oven Cooking", by John Ragsdale, published by Lone Star Books, Houston, Texas.

These and other books may be available from the Scout Service Centers as well as book and camping stores. I have found them listed at REI, Walden and Borders Books, and available on Amazon.

So when someone asks if I think it is important to train the Scouts to prepare good meals and to eat together, I say, Yes, it is an essential part of our Scouting program that is often overlooked. We owe it to the Scouts to help them become better Scouts and citizens, and we owe it to the Scouts and ourselves to eat well.

Index of Articles in Lakeshore District Newsletter

I have asked if there is an index of previous Newsletter articles. I do and am attaching it to this month's Newsletter. The first Newsletter was published April 2003. I have repeated some articles over the years when they seem relevant. Articles that had to do with training dates or other time related topics have been removed from the index.

Eagle Scout Leadership Service Projects - Lack of Planning

Lately I have been noticing a large number of Eagle Scout project proposals that are being rejected for lack of planning details. On the surface they look to be good projects that will meet Scouting requirements, but the details have not been thought through or at least put on paper.

Lists of tools (quantities and sources); lists of materials and supplies (quantities and sources); establishing phases or steps to complete the project including the description of the work of each, the estimated hours and number of people required for each phase and how they will be recruited all need to be included in the planning.

In addition the proposal must address who will provide funds for materials and supplies, how will workers and tools, materials, etc get to work site, and safety considerations. Fund-raises as part of the project should not be the source of raising money for the project, nor should the Scout or his family pay the project costs.

The title of the project workbook includes the word "Leadership." The project must be complicated enough, consisting of more than one activity each requiring the use of several workers, some activities could be simultaneous, requiring the Scout to show leadership. The Scout is not a worker, but a supervisor, and the plan should reflect that.

The details of project planning should be complete enough that someone other than the Scout who prepared the plan could execute the project from the written plan.

All approval signatures must be included when the proposal is sent to the reviewer.

The responsibility for assisting the Scout in preparing an acceptable project proposal lies with the unit leadership. The unit should assign an individual to assist the Scout in achieving his Eagle Scout rank. It should not be left to the Scout and his family or for the District staff to work with the Scout to prepare the proposal.

We have had some Scouts who submit their proposal within a month or two, or less, of their 18th birthday. At least two weeks must be allowed for review after the reviewer gets the proposal. Adequate time must be included for corrections after the review. Adequate time must be planned to work on the project after approval. The project is not complete until the report and all the signatures are obtained. These have to be completed before his 18th birthday. A last minute proposal shows a lack of planning and organization on the part of the Scout and could be a topic of discussion during the Eagle Scout Board of Review.

Lack of planning on the part of the Scout is not an excuse for late submittals nor will the standards of acceptance be relaxed. Projects will continue to be rejected for lack of planning.

To help with this the Lakeshore District conducts a "Life to Eagle Scout" training session in the Spring and Fall each year. It is important that the Scout and his parents attend. It has been observed that Scouts who have attended have an easier time completing the steps to achieve Eagle Scout rank. Check the District calendar for dates.

Unavoidable Laws of the Natural Universe

Law of Coffee: As soon as you sit down to a cup of hot coffee, your boss or someone will ask you to do something which will last until the coffee is cold.

What is Your Troop Doing to Celebrate the 100 Year Anniversary?

Find out more at the 100th Anniversary website: ww2.scouting.org/100years/100years/