



Planning A Successful Blue and Gold Banquet And History of the Cub Scout Blue and Gold Banquet

A 66-YEAR OLD TRADITION TO CELEBRATE 89 YEARS OF SCOUTING

In 1933 "Cub Leaders' Round Table" suggested Parent / Cub dinners. Soon thereafter, Pack 1 of Michigan City started a tradition of pot-lucks where the dads were to bring utensils made of wood; whittled by the Cub with his dad. In the 1930s father / son 'bean dinners' and 'Cub family dinners' began to become commonplace. Finally, in 1943 the name "Blue and Gold Banquet" first appeared in BSA literature, and became synonymous with "celebrating the birthday of Scouting."

Today, the Blue and Gold banquet is one of the highlights of the program year. It brings together your Pack's families for a dinner and an evening of fun. The meal is important, but even more important is the warm, congenial atmosphere created as families enjoy each other's company.

Taken from the virtual handout.

For more information on planning and game ideas visit the Blue and Gold section of the booklet: <http://www.geocities.com/~pack215/blue-and-gold.html> .

Five ways to help create an awesome Blue and Gold Banquet:

1) Feed your attendees in the beginning of the event.

I have performed my ventriloquist show at many Blue and Gold banquets. Some have chosen to have the awards or entertainment before the dinner. Often the children and adults so hungry they are either falling a sleep or a little cranky because they are hungry. So make sure you feed them first!

2) When should you have the entertainment?

I would have the entertainment right after the dinner, followed by the awards presentation. I have presented my ventriloquist show at many Blue and Gold Banquets where they put the entertainer on after the awards and many of the attendees leave before the show begins.

If you can't put the entertainment before the awards, you may want to save a raffle for after the show as an incentive for them to stick around until the performance is finished.

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3) Make sure the sound system at your banquet is properly working.

I have performed at hundreds of Cub Scout Blue and Gold Banquets where the sound is so bad that no one can hear the announcements or the names of the Cub Scouts receiving the awards. For this reason, I own a professional sound system so I can make sure everyone has no trouble enjoying my ventriloquist show. Make sure you test out the sound system days before your event to be sure it is working properly. If it is not working ask someone within your Cub Pack to see if they have a professional system you can borrow. There might be an old rock n roller who still has some nice equipment packed away in their basement!

4) Keep it Simple

Cub Scouts want to have fun and the banquet is one fun way to reward the kids and the parents. The easier and faster you can move things along the happier your parent and Cub Scouts will be.

I was performing at one Blue and Gold Banquet where the Cub Master kept adding little tidbits about each volunteer and den leader. He turned a two minute announcement into a twenty minute speech. Yes people want to be recognized, but keep it simple. Most people would just rather stand and wave when acknowledged than be the center of attention for several minutes. Move it along, keep it simple and you will have an awesome banquet.

5) Keep your parents quiet during the awards and the show.

When I perform I let the parents know that my ventriloquist show is enjoyable for all ages and I ask them to please keep their table talk to a minimum. I tell them if they need to talk they are more than welcome to go outside or in the hall. If the parents are talking the Cub Scout cannot enjoy the program and they might think; "Well if mom and dad can talk, I can talk too." The best thing you can do before you begin the announcements is to set the rules for both parents and Cub Scouts. A friendly reminder to be on their best behavior can go along way.

Ventriloquist/Funny Puppet Guy Richard Paul's show can help Cub Scouts fulfill selected rank requirements:

What makes America Special?

- Richard creates an American Flag right before their eyes.
- They learn why there are 13 strips and 50 stars
- We explain patriotism and why the flag is a symbol of freedom.
- If requested, we also offer booklets on the history of the American Flag and the Constitution.

Family: We discuss respect and character building

They learn through the puppets humorous banter why it is important to be respectful to yourself and others. They learn that the world is made up of different races, religions and ethnic background and we must not judge but rather embrace our differences.

Acting

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As part of the show Richard calls up several Cub Scouts to help with a story about a frog who wants to be king. Several scouts play different parts reciting lines and dressing up as the specific characters.

Art and Puppetry

Prior to the Blue and Gold banquet show, the den leaders can have each scout create a bag or sock puppet and Richard will award for best design, creativity and uniqueness. He can pick out one or more puppets made and bring them to life with a short ad libbed comedy segment.

Richard's Blue and Gold Family Fun Show works well with National Cub Scouting Character Connection Program and Core Values. Below there is an asterisk by each Core Value discussed or presented during the Family Fun Show.

The National Cub Scouting Character Connections Program was introduced in 2002. The key elements of the program are 12 core values, several of which relate directly to points in the Scout Law. The character-building process is called Character Connections, which connects the values to the activities and advancement of Cub and Webelos Scouts.

The Cub Scouting Character Connections Program identifies 12 core values which are incorporated into the advancement requirements for the Tiger Cub, Wolf, Bear, Webelos, and Arrow of Light ranks, as well as the Webelos Activity Badges. Boys are encouraged to "*KNOW*," "*COMMIT*," and "*PRACTICE*" each Core Value as follows:

***Citizenship:** Contributing service and showing responsibility to local, state, and national communities. (Related requirements: Tiger Cub: 2 - Where I Live, Bear: 3j - What Makes America Special, Webelos: Citizen Activity Badge)

***Compassion:** Being kind and considerate and showing concern for the well-being of others. (Related requirement: Bear: 24f - Be a Leader)

***Cooperation:** Being helpful and working together with others toward a common goal. (Related requirement: Wolf: 10a - Family Fun)

***Courage:** Being brave and doing what is right regardless of our fears, the difficulties, or the consequences. (Related requirements: Wolf: 12a - Making Choices, Bear: 11g - Be Ready, Webelos: Readyman Activity Badge)

***Faith:** Having inner strength and confidence based on our trust in God. (Related requirements: Tiger Cub: 5 - Let's Go Outdoors, Wolf: 11a - Duty to God, Bear: 1a - Ways We Worship, Webelos: 8 - Faith)

Health and Fitness: Being personally committed to keeping our minds and bodies clean and fit. (Related requirements: Tiger Cub: 3 - Keeping Myself Healthy and Safe, Webelos: Health and Fitness Activity Badge)

***Honesty:** Telling the truth and being worthy of trust. (Related requirements: Bear: 18h - Jot it Down, Arrow of Light: 7)

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***Perseverance:** Sticking with something and not giving up, even if it is difficult. (Related requirement: Webelos: Athlete Activity Badge)

***Positive Attitude:** Being cheerful and setting our minds to look for and find the best in all situations. (Related requirements: Wolf: 6a, Start a Collection, Webelos: Scholar Activity Badge)

Resourcefulness: Using human and other resources to their fullest. . (Related requirement: Bear: 21g - Build a Model)

1. ***Respect:** Showing regard for the worth of something or someone. (Related requirements: Tiger Cub: 4 - How I Tell It, Wolf: 7a - Your Living World, Bear: 8g - The Past is Exciting and Important, Webelos: Naturalist Activity Badge)
2. ***Responsibility:** Fulfilling our duty to God, country, other people, and ourselves. (Related requirements: Tiger Cub: 1 - Making My Family Special, Wolf: 9a Be Safe at Home)

As you can see Richard's Blue and Gold Banquet Family Fun Show hits on 10 of the 12 of the Cub Scout Character Core Values.

For more information, see the March, 2003 Scouting Magazine (introductory) article entitled: [Of Cub Scouting and Core Value](#)

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