



PROGRAMME PLANNING

What is the secret of a good programme?

The answer must be the positive attitude of the Leaders and their ability to communicate with a group of 7-11 year olds with imagination. There is no "right" way of doing things and instructions cannot always be written down as the dynamic interaction between Cubs and Leaders is unique every time. With this dynamic interaction and familiarization, together with the leaders' decision making skills, a unique programme is created. This programme will be driven by analyzing and identifying what cubs need to gain from their scouting experience. This will create solutions that will be reflected in the well-designed programme.

It is not what you do, but the way you do it. How true this is in the running of a cub programme. The leaders' attitude transmits to the whole section. If you are enthusiastic, the cubs will be looking forward to take part in your activities. This does not mean that programme contents are not important, merely that the way they are

delivering is equally important. All successful programmes are FUN and challenging for both the Cub and the Leader.

Once you have your programme ready, be it for a Pack Meeting or a weekend away, it is not necessary to stick rigidly to it. The programme should be flexible and it is there as an aid. It is always better to have too much to do rather than too little. If something is not working change it, but do not try to implement all programme at once. Something that works in an activity does not necessarily work out during another. Do not be surprised if a craft project works on an evening after a hike but does not work when the Cubs are full of stored up energy after a day indoors. Cubs have moods. Use these moods to your advantage when programming but always be sensitive to them. Usually simple ideas with a little added imagination work best.

Everyone experience disasters from time to time. Try to learn from them and do not despair.

WHY PLAN PROGRAMMES?

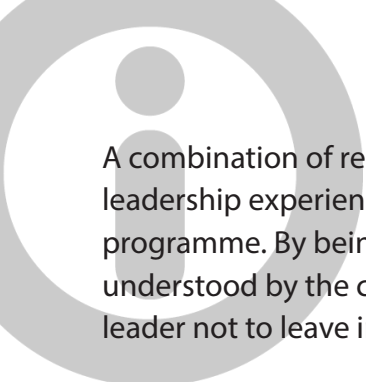
Planning programmes should be a team effort. If everyone is involved in deciding what is to be done, how and when, the people involved feel a certain degree of 'ownership' and this brings sense of responsibility to carry it through.

Let us forget about planning for the moment. What happens if you do not plan? Besides the confusion, you would quickly find that your meetings would be very uninspiring and lacking in appeal and in time the cubs will get bored. Things will not happen without planning; they cannot be created on the spur of the moment.

Plan your Work and Work your Plan

The programme we design must be encompassed with what we are doing in the progressive scheme. Therefore, the cubs should have a say in the monthly programme directly. Now that we know the sessions chosen by the cubs, we can start to plan. With all sessions in mind maybe we can plan a weekend camp to assess what the cubs have learned.





A combination of research together with the leadership experience will lead to a sequential programme. By being sequential, it will be easily understood by the cubs while also helping the leader not to leave important thing out.

We would like to point out that programme planning works out better when it is done as a team rather than individually. Try spending 10 minutes during which everyone mentions any ideas and activities that they think might work. Writing these ideas down will help the team to see what the plan should be like. This will lead to a better communication between the cubs and the leaders and as a result the leader will benefit and come up with a programme that is focused on the cubs' needs. For example it will help us to come up with a creative symbolic framework for a camping activity.

After the programme has been carried out, an evaluation should always be done. In this evaluation, that usually takes around 10 minutes, the cubs will give feedback about what they liked and did not liked about the activity. These issues can be written down by the leader or by the cubs themselves. Eventually these ideas are filed with the leader's programme. Furthermore, they will help the leader to create a more cub oriented programme when preparing for the next activity.

Trying to draw up plans for a whole year's activities is difficult, but when tackled three to four months at a time, it becomes easier to manage. Having a three month programme will help you and your leaders to plan the meetings for the sessions chosen.

There are various types of programme planning:

- Yearly
- Quarterly
- Monthly
- Weekly

When planning your programme, always keep in mind the Annual National Activities. Normally these dates are issued by National Island Headquarters by the end of the previous year. The pack programme is then planned according to the needs of the pack. National Activities are important. By attending you will not only give the opportunity to your pack to integrate with other cubs, but also you as a leader will get to know other leaders. This will evolve into discussions and you together with the cubs will benefit and go back to the groups with ideas that you would have heard from others.

Minimum Activities

In fact a minimum number of outdoor activities per year are expected because Scouting believes that, no matter how good the indoor meetings are, the 'out of doors' offers better and more practical learning opportunities which give a far greater contribution to the development of the individual.

Your Cub Programme is expected to include:

- An Annual Camp
- At least 6 outdoor activities during the year
- Indoor meetings as needed to achieve the progressive scheme

