

Thursday, May 08, 2008

Hi Cub Scout Leaders,

Here are details for the Cub Scout Olympics. Ten copies were passed out last night at roundtable, and I'll also put it on the district's web site. It's wordy, but intended to answer potential questions for first-time packs. For those of you who've participated before, if you spot anything I missed or need to correct, please let me know. I will talk to Margaret about getting time during the June and July roundtables to hold some planning meetings.

For now:

We are working to finalize the location (Lake O'Neil or the AGSEM).

Please identify parents who can help with the food preparation. We'd like one person/pack to be in the food area. (I'd suggest that you have at least two people, each working half the event.) And let me know if you've decided on an event.

And now for the story:

High-level details:

- We have 8 packs expressing interest in joining us, which makes for a much bigger and better games than previous years.
- We'll have organizational meetings during the June and July roundtables where most of the details will be worked out. Here's how I see the games going:
- The date is still fixed at Saturday, August 16th.
- The opening ceremonies will start at 9:30am, with the competition program running from 10am to noon. A pot-luck picnic/awards ceremony runs from noon to 2pm, with most of that time spent eating. Cleanup follows that. Due to the size of the games, I'm planning on being the first one there (at 8am) and the last one rolling out of there (by 3pm), with most of you arriving a little later and leaving a little before.
- The location will either be Lake O'Neil on Camp Pendleton, or the Vista Antique Gas and Steam Engine Museum. Both have water available, and it will come down to lowest cost. The cost at the AGSEM is \$2/person plus the cost of renting the grill. If Lake O'Neil is cheaper, that's where we'll be. Ramon is checking on this for us.
- Pack 752 is coordinating the pot-luck, and at this point, we'd like each unit to identify one person to help with the food. Units are encouraged to split the duty between several people, but I'd like to get the name and contact information for the main food person from your unit in the next month. Best way to reach me is email (JHunter1@irf.com) or cell phone (760.310.0955).

More details:

Setup: We will be setting up the sports center, the cooking area, and each unit needs to set up its event prior to the start of opening ceremonies (9:30am). Food for the pot-luck is set up in the (shaded) serving area. Each athlete should check in at the sports center where he/she receives their bead-holder.

Opening Ceremonies: Starts with the parade of packs. Athletes wear class B uniforms (my choice). At conclusion of parade, we have opening flags. One scout from each unit (and boy scouts) in class A's raises the flag and leads the cub scout promise. Then comes the torch relay. One athlete from each pack participates in the torch relay...once around the event area while everyone cheers wildly and hums the theme song from 'Chariots of Fire'.

Cubmasters put on a moving opening ceremony involving rhythmic gymnastic moves with hula-hoops. (Cubmasters: start dieting now, so you'll look good in a tutu and tiara.) Then the games are opened and everyone runs to their event areas.

The competitions: Cubs are split into groups by ranks (Tiger, Wolves, Bears, Webelos). If the groups aren't even (and usually aren't) we'll adjust them. As for siblings, they are strongly

encouraged to participate, but we'll decide as a group if we have a separate division for them, or they tag along with their scout brothers. Each activity period is 20 minutes along with a 5 minute 'water-break/rotation period). To fit 4-5 groups in to 8 events in 6 periods, some shorter events will be grouped. Each group will be led by 1-2 boy scouts who are the recorders of the scores and will deliver the results to the sports center for tallying.

Any feat of skill is suitable for an event. While something loosely associated with an actual Olympic event is preferred, the most important aspect is that the athletes have a blast participating. There will be water available, although we may have to bring our own hoses. It also should move fast, so a large group can rotate through it in 20 minutes. So if it's something that takes some time to complete, come up with multiple sets that can be run in parallel. Each event staff is responsible for making a score sheet appropriate for their event. Details (and samples) will be given out during the organizational meetings. The event staff and supervising boy scouts fill out the score sheets during the event. Sample events for this year's games:

- Pack 722 will be hosting a Javelin throw using foam noodles
- Pack 752 will be putting on a 2-lane slip 'n slide scored like the long jump

If you're unsure about your event, you can run it by me at roundtable, or shoot me an email or phone call.

The potluck: A communal grill will be rented (or if you know someone who has one they can bring, please let me know). Units bring enough meat, buns, condiments, and charcoal for their units. Each family brings a dessert, side dish, drinks...depending on athlete's rank (to be determined later). There should be a shaded area for the storage of food items during the games. When the games are an hour from concluding, the grills are fired up, the meats are grilled, and the serving area is readied. As the different groups finish (a natural staggering system) they line up and are fed. The food volunteers will be coordinated by pack 752's special events goddess (Donnah Snaer-Williams) who will be at the June and July roundtables. The volunteer crew will be responsible for:

- Setting up the food and grill(s), and keeping people like me from raiding the cookies prior to picnic time.
- Firing up the grill(s) and cooking the meats
- Serving the food (some of the athletes will have dirty hands and shouldn't be handling food)
- Final cleanup after everyone has taken their coolers/dishes back

Awards and scoring: Each athlete gets a bead for participating in each event. In addition, for each event, the top 3 athletes in each level earn the coveted bronze, silver, and gold beads. The participation beads are awarded at the conclusion of each event. The gold/silver/bronze beads are awarded during the pot luck. Some kind of bead holder (may have a commemorative patch) will be given to each athlete at check-in. In addition, if anyone has any old trophies they can part with, we traditionally recognize a handful of athletes displaying extraordinary scout spirit during the games. The games are closed until next year in a moving ceremony where one athlete is chosen to run off into the sunset carrying the torch while everyone cheers and chants "Run Forest Run..." If anyone has a scout named Forest, please let me know.

Wrap-up and Clean-up: There aren't many places suitable to host our games, especially as they grow. We always leave the venue cleaner than we found it. We ask all packs to communicate the need to clean up to their families. And being that we're scouting families, it's never been a problem.

The final word: We've been putting on these games for several summers now, and they're always a little different. If you have some ideas, please voice them.

It's going to be a fun time for all...

Jim Hunter

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